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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 5, No. 50

News you can use, news you can trust



Page 18

Developer will wait four weeks for discussion

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A local developer must wait another four weeks to find out if he can proceed with a plan to build 49 condominiums on land adjacent to wetlands on Ecorse Road between Merriman and Wayne roads.

Andrew Milia, a developer and owner of Farmington Hills-based Franklin Property Corp., presented a plan for a subdivision called Wellesley Park at the Monday night city council meeting, outlining the year-long process of meeting planning commission approvals.

However, for the developer to move forward, the city council members must grant a special land use provision to the develop-

We're entering a very precarious time in the housing market right now, and it's almost to the point where (the homes) might not be built.

Andrew Milia

er to allow him to build the condominiums in a "cluster formation" near the wetlands on a vacant, 33.4-acre parcel.

"We've gone through a long process with the planning department, and they have been very professional," said Milia. "We've had about 10 meetings about this so far... but we're getting to the point where we need to move forward. We're entering a very precarious time in the housing mar-

ket right now, and it's almost to the point where (the homes) might not be built."

Housing sales are still strong in Michigan, but have recently begun to falter in some communities in Southeast Michigan because of employment concerns, Milia said.

But city council members, looking at the site plan for the first time, were reluctant to put their stamp of approval on the

plan after seeing it just one time.

"I think we need to have study session on this project to learn more about it," said Mayor Protem Randolph Gear. "This project is entirely new to us, and we are a new council with three new members. I think if we meet and discuss this again, we can vote on the project with all of our questions answered all our conscience clear."

Granting the special land use permit is perhaps the final time the council will have to vote on the plan, which will need final approval from the planning commission once the project is complete. Several council members insisted the developer come back to city hall for a more in-depth

See Wellesley, page 3

Manufacturer gets 6-year tax break

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Despite last-minute pleas from the owner of a fabricating company, Romulus City Council members cut a requested tax abatement from 12 to six years at their regular Monday meeting.

Wolf Aircraft, a company that opened in Wayne in 1941 and moved to Romulus in 1981, requested a 50 percent tax break on \$4.6 million in improvements to the Cogswell Street facility for 12 years. After a public hearing Monday, the council voted to give the plant only six years based on a formula the city has used for several years.

Dan Wolf, owner of the company, said during his presentation that he needs the tax break for 12 years to modernize his business and to make sure he keeps pace with the future.

"We started construction on our facility in 1979, and we opened in 1981," he said. "We used to expand our facility every five years, but now we haven't done that for 18 years. We have a good relationship with the city, and I've already decided that I want to stay here. This business has been in three generations of my family; I want to make sure it is enhanced for the next generation."

Wolf creates tube fabrications for the airline and automotive industries. Wolf said his biggest

See Break, page 3



'Good' grooming

Four-legged family members came out in droves to the Fluff-N-Puff pet salon on Goddard Road for some pampering and a visit with Santa Saturday. Proceeds will help fund the construction of a new animal shelter in the city. Fluff-N-Puff is one of several businesses that have helped raise about \$65,000 for the shelter. Sassy (above), an 8-week-old pup, arrived with his family (left to right) Jonathan Johnson, Daniel Everts, Mitchell Johnson, and Derek Johnson. Santa also visited with Romeo (right), during the event.



Legacy Park project gets council approval

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Final plat approval for the long discussed Legacy Park complex was granted to Elro Corp. by members of the Romulus City

Council.

Legacy Park, a collection of 92 single-family homes that will be situated on a 44-acre parcel of land near Tyler and Cogswell roads, can now apply for building permits and move forward with

the project.

City Planner Cynthia Lyon said the developer met all of the requirements put into place by city ordinances, and that the

See Park, page 3

Railroad plan is on the right track

Local businesses deserve accolades

Page 4

News



Senior coordinator hosts annual lunch

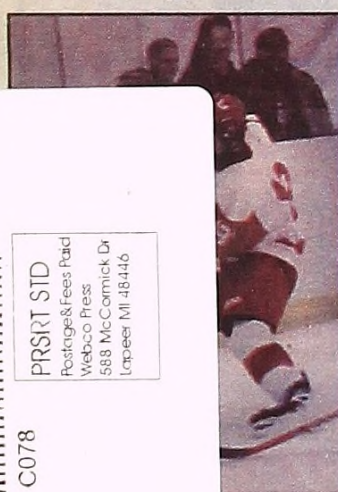
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Girlstown receives special delivery

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Sports



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Meal gives couple a chance to say thanks

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

An annual Romulus tradition just keeps getting bigger each year.

And that means two things – Jerry and Linda Norman have more people to thank for their good fortune during the holidays, and the expense of their annual holiday lunch for seniors is higher. But Linda Norman said expense is no obstacle during a time when she thanks everyone that helps her take on the task of running the city senior services.

The Normans decided to put on a luncheon for their friends and co-workers about 10 years ago. The couple pay for all of the expenses of hosting the meal, which took place at the Romulus Progressive Hall Dec. 6.

“The first year we had about

15 people who worked at the Senior Center attend,” said Linda Norman, the coordinator Romulus Senior Services. “The next year, because the city helped so much, we decided to invite the city employees. Then other companies who worked with us were added to the list. Now look at the turnout.”

This year, the once-modest luncheon turned into full-fledged “Fiesta Style Meal,” with more than 120 people filing into the Progressive Hall to celebrate the season, Norman said.

Senior Services conducts educational and recreational activities for Romulus seniors 55 years and older. Linda Norman said she counts on many people – employees, volunteers and city employees – to give her a helping hand to bring these events to fruition. Linda Norman has



Linda Norman and her husband, Jerry, share a joyous moment at the annual Fiesta Style senior holiday luncheon Dec. 6.

worked for the city on behalf of seniors for several years.

Mayor Alan Lambert attended the event, and said Linda

Norman and her staff provide a vital, essential services to seniors.

“It is not just for the meal that we come,” he said. “We all want

to show the love and support we have for Linda and Jerry, who have done so much for our seniors and our city.”

Wellesley - Project awaits approval

FROM PAGE 1

discussion.

Originally, the Wellesley Park plan called for 53 detached condos on the parcel. But after negotiating details with planning commissioners, the developer conceded that, if the special land use provision could be granted and he could move forward quickly, he would reduce the number to 49, which the planning commission found to be a more favorable in terms of density.

Right now, the plan includes a 56-percent ratio of green space, which is relatively high for a new development. Though details of the plan are still being finalized in terms of the style of the homes, Milia said the most likely sce-

nario will be Cape Cod and colonial styles with brick facades. The condos will range in size from 1,500 square feet to 2,500, and will sell for about \$250,000 to \$300,000, Milia added.

Milia said he would agree to the study session, which was scheduled for 6 p.m. on Jan. 9. Council meetings scheduled for Dec. 27 and Jan. 2 were deemed unsuitable because too many people would be out of town, said Councilman William Crova.

If one more meeting will quell concerns about the project, Milia said he would be glad to come back.

“I can understand that it’s a new council,” he said. “I can come back. I think they’ll find it’s a very good project that works well in the area.”

Park - Project will break ground

FROM PAGE 1

revised plan was ready to go. All fire department and building code reviews required by the city are now complete.

The Legacy Park project is located adjacent to a 9.73-acre wetlands area the developer donated to the school district for an educational nature preserve, which earned high marks from the city.

“It’s not often we see a landowner donating land to the schools for these purposes,” said Councilman LeRoy Burcroff.

“I wish we saw more it. Overall, Elro has been good to the city.”

Romulus school board members voted to accept the donated land two months ago. They will use the property to teach students in all grades about the natural world and how individual ecosystems maintain themselves, schools officials said. Residents will also be able to use the natural area for bike rides and walks, according to the plan.

Legacy Park is the fourth subdivision developed in Romulus by Elro. The Commons, a collection of 179 colonial and ranch homes is currently under construction; The Farms, which is made up of 53 single-family homes adjacent to where Legacy Park will sit, and Avalon Meadows, a 178-home subdivision at Wayne and Ecorse roads.

The homes – which are described as colonials, cape cods and ranches, will sit on 9,600 square-foot lots with a width of 80 feet. They will likely be a combination of brick and aluminum siding, similar to the other projects Elro has developed in Romulus. The homes will likely be priced in the \$200,000 range.

The city planning commission has worked with Elro for about a year to bring the project to fruition.

Construction should have begun in the fall, but changes in the site plan that eliminated one home from the subdivision, as well as other small changes to the plan, were made before final council approval Monday.

News In Brief

City transfers liquor license

Romulus City Council members awarded Midfield Hospitality, the owner of the Clarion Inn, an existing class B liquor license with a dance and entertainment permit at the regular city council meeting.

Midfield Hospitality – a partnership of four Oakland County businessmen – recently purchased the Clarion Inn. The businessmen intend to improve the facility interior, and applied for the license this summer. The police completed an extensive background check on the company and recommended the license transfer be approved.

The approval clears the way for the hotel to sell liquor at two bars inside the establishment. Dance floors will also be permitted.

Employees get Flexible Spending Accounts

The Romulus City Council approved a measure to award a benefits management company with the responsibility of creating and maintaining a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program

for city employees.

These accounts are employer-sponsored programs that allow an employee to set aside tax-free dollars to pay for medical care not covered by insurance, including expenses incurred for dental, vision, dependent care and elder care. All expenses must be Internal Revenue Service-approved to be exempt from income tax.

The city insurance broker, McGraw Wentworth, solicited bids for a company to administer the plan. Allied Benefit Systems, Inc., of Chicago, will charge the city \$1,700 per year for the service.

Planning company contract renewed

It looks like the planning experts of Langworthy, Strader, LeBlanc and Associates will be sticking around.

City council members voted to extend the planning consulting firm contract for another three years. The city originally signed on with the firm in 2002. The firm has offices in Royal Oak and in Grand Rapids.

Break - Aircraft fabrication company has deep roots in city

FROM PAGE 1

customers are the U.S. government, General Aviation and Piper Aircraft, among others. The new construction – which has already began – will add square footage, welding machines and new equipment – all of which have taxable value. About 10 new jobs will be created as a result of the changes, Woolf said.

Some improvements to the grounds and facility are things that are mandated by county and city government, and are not necessarily changes that will help Woolf’s business, he said, and the full 12 years would help defray some of these costs.

“Right now, we’re building a sidewalk to nowhere, and it’s not something I needed or something I wanted to do,” he said. “But these are things that are being required. We’re going through a very difficult time (in manufacturing) right now, and I need some help to get through it.”

Woolf said he knows of other municipalities that have a more lenient policy of granting 12-year tax abatements, which is the maximum amount of time allowed by state law.

“Other municipalities surrounding us are giving out 12-year abatements,” he said. “And I have a good friend that just received a 12-year abatement from (the city of Holland) for improvements he wants to make.”

“I’m hoping you can reconsider your thinking,” Woolf added.

Several council members indicated that they would not support a 12-year abatement, though the sympathized with Woolf’s plight.

“I think there are benefits to being here in Romulus, as opposed to some place like Holland,” said Councilman LeRoy Burcroff.

“I think I would be willing to go forward with a six-year abatement.”

Tax abatements have been a cause for debate among manufacturers facing a difficult transition

in the state economy, city officials who must look out for the public’s interest and residents whom feel they will have to pay for tax breaks given to big companies.

Councilman William Wadsworth said abatements can be valuable tool to keep businesses from moving to lower-cost states, but that the city policies were formerly abused.

“We used to give out 12-year abatements all of the time, and it was ridiculous,” he said. “Many years ago we looked at this and came up with a formula, and we think it works.”

Council members use a points system that measures the amount of the abatement request, the amount of dollars generated by the expansion and the number of jobs provided or maintained. That information is then measured against set time intervals that determine the number of years the city will provide the tax break. In the past several years, Only General Motors has qualified for the full 12-year abatement.

OPINION

On the right track

A proposed rapid transit system from Detroit to Ann Arbor may turn out to be an interesting exercise in inter-governmental cooperation.

The idea is one that has floated around for a while and gained momentum recently. The Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has looked at the feasibility of such a system, with the most recent meeting taking place in September. Another is scheduled for this week.

Currently, there are two main lines under consideration – one that runs along the Norfolk-Southern line that roughly parallels Michigan Avenue and another further south that runs through Romulus. Officials in the City of Wayne are lobbying for the former option and hoping to push for a station in the city that would help bolster their efforts at downtown revitalization. It was also mentioned during the Urban Design Studio.

Both lines have significant appeal. The one near Michigan Avenue is a more urban setting, with more potential along the way for stops. The communities along that route will no doubt lobby hard to host one of those stops and most will be disappointed because, well, most stops means a less rapid transit. The Romulus line is closer to other amenities like Metro Airport and could use the impending casino developments as a further draw.

It certainly makes sense, though, for officials in Wayne to push for the concept. We also like the concept of city officials asking for resolutions of support from their neighboring communities because something like this would tend to have a domino effect and help out the region, as a whole.

This is all very preliminary; nothing has been decided about the proposal, including if and when it would ever come to fruition. But we like the Michigan Avenue route, though, in part because it's already used for similar purposes. Having a train station in or near downtown Wayne would be pretty cool, too, with its existing parking garage, small but growing retail component and smattering of restaurants.

We say keep up the push. Let them know where you are, what you bring to the concept and why you deserve to be a part of the process, going forward.

'Tis the season of excess

It is that time of year.

Too much to do, too little sleep, too much food, too many parties... it is, in many cases, the season of excess.

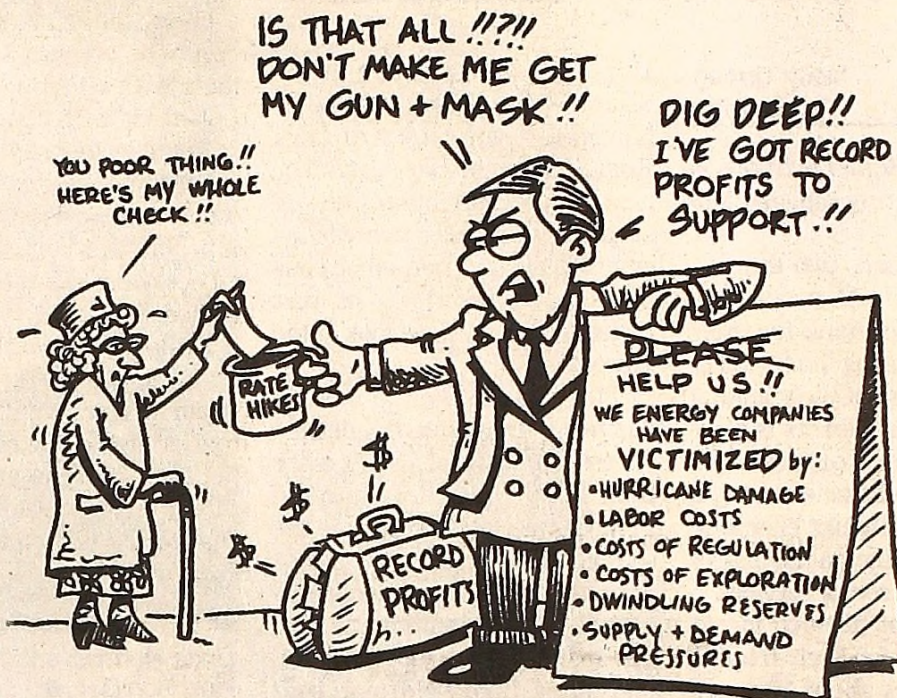
But not for everyone.

There are many, particularly this year, who will not have much of a Christmas. They do not have to worry about finding the perfect gift, or exactly what Uncle George wanted, because they have to choose between using the meager funds they have to eat, or stay warm. It is an ugly truth. The poor, misfortunate and underprivileged are among us, and as we rush from family parties to office get togethers and back out to the mall to shop in an effort not to miss the 50 percent off early bird specials, perhaps we should all pay a bit more attention.

This has been a year of devastation, both natural and man made in our country and in our state. Michigan residents poured help into the areas ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many local charities were excited by the amount of aid they were able to provide to the homeless, the dislocated and the disenfranchised families affected.

And here, at home, many are faced with an uncertain future in light of job cutbacks, plant closings, business failures and threatened "downsizing". Charities have all reported a drop in donations, due, they say, because of the amount already given for hurricane relief

See Give, page 5



Taking care of city business

Sometimes you can't see something that's staring you right in the face.

For a while now, I've thought that all the City of Wayne needed was someone to take a big chance, invest some money and start the domino effect rolling.

I looked at the city like the Detroit Tigers, wondering why we couldn't attract the top of the line free agents that want to go to other clubs and instead have to try to positively spin the ones that do come to town.

I was so sure in this, in fact, that I overlooked the people that have taken that chance, sunk some money into the town and tried to put a bigger spark in the downtown.

These people could operate relatively small scale businesses, like Kimberly Loveless and her Acorn Shop on Wayne Road. They could be larger scale investments like the one Bob Wojtowicz made in the vacant building that long ago housed Johnson's Tavern. You might be able to make the case for Stuart Michalson and the Windmill group; real estate is real estate, after all. Eventually you'll make your money back, and more.

Businesses are a little trickier, though.

When I talked with Wojtowicz a couple of weeks ago about the new concept for his club, I liked what I heard. His last venture wasn't very well received from the get-go; the police and city officials complained about all the negative activity that took place there and he, in turn, complained about the negative attention he said he received from the city a prominent police presence nearby and all that.

Still, he took a big chance on Wayne. He said he could have opened his club anywhere and wanted to do it in the community where he was raised. That meant Wayne or Westland. With a new name, The Lab, and a new concept, he's promised more personal involvement and fewer problems.

Hopefully, that's not just the kind of sunshine speech I get sometimes from someone who knows all the right things to say. I'd really like to see him push for the kind of crowd he told me he's after, thirtysomethings that are looking for a place to go without being hassled by younger, more aggressive bar patrons. I still think it's important for him to be successful, because he draws in people that can take note of all the positive things going on around town.

Loveless has issues with the city sign ordinance. She found out when she put out a temporary sign – one that she paid a few hundred dollars for, customized with the name and logo of her shop so it's as tasteful as the interior – that she could only keep it up for two weeks at a time if she paid a permit fee of \$65. She wanted to keep it up all through the month of December, prime retail time, and was told she could if she signed a waiver saying she wouldn't use one for her other two-week allotment some other time in the year.

Loveless, a long-time member of the community that was very excited to finally be able to open up a shop here, didn't want to complain or break the

See Business, page 5

Dear Santa: All I want for Christmas

Hey, isn't this supposed to be the season of good cheer?

Hello. Aren't people supposed to be nice during the holidays? And aren't people supposed to be real nice when they are taking your money? And even nicer when it is their job?

Apparently, those raised watching *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street* have the wrong idea about holiday conduct. Nobody has to be nice to customers anymore. It is every man for himself.

Here's one in a long series of examples. Every year, I purchase Santabears for my family. This has been going on for years, so there is no danger of giving away any secrets. They all know they are getting a Santabear in one of those boxes under the tree. Whether they want it or not, it's one of those traditions. I guess Santabears are the holiday fruitcakes of my family.

Anyhow, this year, to avoid the mad rush and unruly crowds seeking the furry little creatures on the day after Thanksgiving, I played it smart and ordered them by mail. And, just as promised, for a \$10 extra shipping fee, for EACH bear, they arrived

on my porch, all crammed into one box.

One big box. ONE big box. This is when the troubles really started.

Foolish, sentimental fool that I am, I gamboled off to Marshall Field's to ask for boxes so I could wrap up the bears. Thinking the process through carefully, which is unusual for me, I went right to the gift wrap department.

OK, in their defense, they were very busy...well, two of them were busy, the third one was watching her friends work and explaining that it was the drugs that made Ernie so ornery and them cops had no call to cart him off, it being the holidays and all. But she was very busy watching them and telling her story. I felt very, very sorry for poor Ernie who was obviously abused at the hands of law enforcement officials.

I took a number, waited my turn, receipt for my bears in hand.

As sweetly as my disposition will allow, I asked

See Santa, page 5

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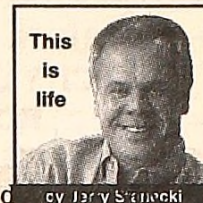
Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Nobody asked me

by Susan Willett

Rounding a corner into the memories of the past



Rounding the corner of the lake recently, I walked into a sudden coolness. The temperature from one step to another must have dropped 10 degrees from 70 to 60. Hmm, what caused that?

My mind shifted to growing up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin a few blocks from Lake Michigan and I thought of days when the winds shifted over the great lake and the temperature would drop, sometimes 20 degrees in a matter of minutes. The memory brought a warm peacefulness that in a second of time became bitter-sweet.

Recalling my thoughts as a boy, I was delighted with the dra-

matic change, yet, immediately understood that I had many years ahead to figure it all out. That boyhood thought today is touched by the bittersweet acceptance that there are not so many years remaining.

A friend wrote the other day that her grandmother had passed away. I sent condolences and added "Life, so fragile, so quickly it travels as we chase but never catch our shadow, until often, too soon, it catches us."

It's often easy to slip into melancholy, especially with the chaos of the world we live in. So easily do we get caught up in life's demands and drama only to

add stress upon stress.

Funny, I'm reminded of a wise man, who when asked how he deals with whirling dervishes, replied, "I watch them swirl."

Not able to watch them swirl and feeling stressed from having to deal with several "Your call is important, please hold," idiots but necessary utility companies, I headed for a walk.

Walking through gardens ready for winter, I spotted tall ornamental grass still growing in front of high dying calla lilies. A flicker of movement in the sky caught my eye. It looked like a butterfly fluttering toward a dead bloom on a flower.

Butterfly? In October?

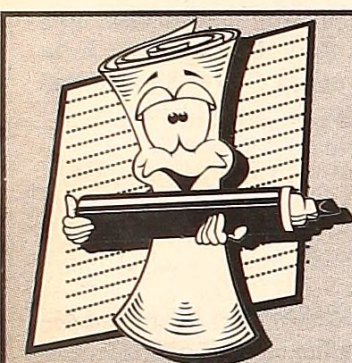
It landed on the flower once in bloom. Getting closer, I realized it was not a butterfly, but a leaf on its final journey to a resting place. The leaf had stuck to a dead flower and indeed looked like a butterfly feeding. What irony in a leaf joining the flower in permanent sleep. What were the odds of that happening? Or, is it what truly happens in death that we all finally come together in quietness?

I write this two days before the 30th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, an ore ship that went down on the stormy night of Nov. 10 in Lake

Superior.

My father died in 1965. Thinking of that when I woke this morning, I wondered if 10 years later, he and all who passed on the tenth day of November welcomed the men of the Fitzgerald like the dead bloom on the flower embraced the leaf?

You can reach Jerry at www.jerrystanecki.com and/or order his book "Life is a Joke and God wrote it" at P. O. Box 121 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301. Save \$4.50 on book and pay only \$15 with coupon from the Journal Newspaper.



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Business

FROM PAGE 4

rules, but wanted to know why other, less tasteful signs seemed to be allowed at other businesses. I think I know what city officials intended with the ordi-

nance; they didn't want a whole slough of temporary sandwich boards cluttering up the sidewalks. Still, in an economy like this, and a location like hers, I think she deserves some consideration. She's right next to the Dairy Queen on Wayne Road in a building that had been vacant for more than a decade before a year

ago.

It's not the most visible location, particularly when cars whiz by at 40-45 mph.

These are tough issues and they're common everywhere, but I think they deserve some more thought. Otherwise the things right in front of our face won't be there, anymore.

Santa

FROM PAGE 4

for boxes for eight bears. I produced the receipt which was ripped out of my hand as if it were a weapon of mass destruction in the hand of a terrorist. Or a beer from Ernie, who knows.

"You only bought three bears, why do you need eight boxes?" was the surly request with a clear hint that I was some sort of shady character attempting to pull a scam resulting in a serious loss to Marshall Field's and perpetrating some assault on the dignity of my inquisitor.

"Um, look again. I bought

three of one and six of the other," I replied with all the bravado of a shy 5-year-old.

After much discussion, and I do mean much discussion, with her peers and co-workers, it was decided that I could, indeed, have the boxes. "Just one little thing, dearie", in a tone that would have taken the rust off my wheel wells, "we don't have any boxes that size."

So, I stood in line, with nine or 10 people behind me, for a 15-minute discussion of my qualifications for boxes, only to be told, haughtily, that I was unworthy.

My world renown temper was quivering for release.

But ever so sweetly, I apologized, I APOLOGIZED, for trou-

bling them, and left the store. I drove 20 miles to another Marshall Field's where the scene, with some minor script and character changes was replayed.

And I didn't get any boxes.

So I made two decisions. One: I am staying out of all malls. No matter what they have on sale, I don't need it that bad and neither does my family.

And Two: I asked Santa for a Taser gun for Christmas.

I just can't wait.



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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD NOVEMBER 28, 2005 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, Leroy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison-Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-421

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 14, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Grout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-422

3A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to concur with the request of Linda Choate, City Clerk in accordance with P.A. 198 of 1974 as amended, to schedule a public hearing on December 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan for Woolf Aircraft Products, Inc. to consider issuance of an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to accept the Chairperson’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-423

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to introduce Budget Amendment 05/06-12:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Narcotics - State Expenditures:				
268-3720-738.73-05	Operating Supplies	50,000	270,270	320,270
Revenue				
268-3720-512.65-42	Fines & Forfeitures	AVAILABLE 125,000	APPROPRIATE 270,270	BALANCE 395,270

To enhance voice radio system, pay prosecuting attorney fees, and other improvements.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-424

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 05/06-13:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Water Expenditures				
592-4510-745.70-20	Regular Salaries/Wages	436,085	36,635	472,720
592-4510-745.71-10	Overtime	65,000	7,500	72,500
592-4510-745.72-10	Social Security	32,556	2,504	35,060
592-4510-745.72-20	Medicare	7,614	587	8,201
592-4510-745.72-30	Retirement	41,428	3,481	44,909
592-4510-745.72-40	Health Insurance	112,128	11,490	123,618
592-4510-745.72-50	Dental Insurance	9,624	843	10,467
592-4510-745.72-60	Life Insurance	840	75	915
592-4510-745.72-70	Long-Short Term Disab.	2,976	238	3,214
592-4510-745.72-80	Worker's Comp.	22,217	3,647	25,774
Sewer Expenditures				
592-4520-745.70-20	Regular Salaries/Wages	436,085	36,635	472,720
592-4520-745.71-10	Overtime	65,000	7,500	72,500
592-4520-745.72-10	Social Security	32,556	2,504	35,060
592-4520-745.72-20	Medicare	7,614	587	8,201
592-4520-745.72-30	Retirement	41,428	3,481	44,909
592-4520-745.72-40	Health Insurance	112,128	11,490	123,618
592-4520-745.72-50	Dental Insurance	9,624	843	10,467
592-4520-745.72-60	Life Insurance	840	75	915
592-4520-745.72-70	Long-Short Term Disab.	2,976	238	3,214
592-4520-745.72-80	Worker's Comp.	22,127	3,647	25,774
Retained Earnings				
592-0000-399.00-00	Retained Earnings	7,573,653	(133,994)	7,439,659

To increase expenses in the Water/Sewer fund due to reallocation of two Major/Local Roads; personnel referenced in Budget Amendment 05/06-10.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-425

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to introduce Budget Amendment 05/06-11 as follows:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditure				
101-3910-739.77-30	Contractual Services	70,000	70,000	140,000
Revenue				
101-3910-511.47-70	Business Permits/City Certs	805,000	70,000	875,000

For increased engineering cost for additional projects which have reimbursable revenue.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-426

5DI. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the administration and adopt a formal resolution for continuation of the Downriver Wastewater Treatment System Joint Management Committee through December 31, 2006 and approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding prepared by Stephen Hitchcock. Complete resolution on file in the Clerks office.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-427

5D2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with the administration and adopt a resolution designating D.P.W. Director Carl Brooks as the Joint Management Committee representative for the Downriver Sewer System and Assistant D.P. W. Director Richard Suiter as the alternate for the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-428

5E1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the administration and adopt the Bylaws of the Alliance of Rouge River Communities and to authorize membership in said consortium.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-429

5E2. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to concur with the administration and designate D.P.W. Carl Brooks as our representative and Assistant D.P.W. Director Richard Suiter as the alternate for the City of Romulus in the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-430

5F. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and D.P.W. Director Carl Brooks and award Bid 05/05-12 City Hall Roof Replacement to MW Morss Roofing, Inc., in the amount of \$38,830.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-431

5G. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the recommendation of D.P.W. Director Carl Brooks and City Engineer’s Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment and award the Junction Sub Water Main/Drainage Improvements Construction bid to the lowest qualified bidder, Tyger Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$4,645,311.40.

Roll Call Vote Showing Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-432

5H. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to authorize Morss Roofing to perform emergency repairs to the Romulus Police Department Roof at a cost of \$13,925.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-433

6A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth in accordance with Section 11.7 of the Romulus City Charter MCL 211.28 , to reappoint Reverend Edward Thomas Jr., to the Board of Review for a two year term; commencing January 1, 2006 and expiring December 31, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear., Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-434

6Alb. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth in accordance with MCL. 168.30a and the Romulus City Charter Sec. 8.176, to reappoint Joyce Webb, Democrat and Kay Cohoon, Republican to the Board of Canvassers, terms to expire December 31, 2009.

YWCA seeks donations for annual program to aid area needy

Officials from the YWCA of Western Wayne County are seeking donations to help the many people they serve throughout the year. They have placed needed items on a wish list for the community.

“This holiday wish list will give members of the communities the YWCA serves a chance to help their less fortunate neighbors this holiday season,” said Karen

Murphy, chief executive officer of the YWCA of western Wayne County.

Donations can be designated to send a child to camp for the summer; for the after school programs or for any of the other programs offered by the YWCA. Many programs need art and craft supplies, comput-

ers, sports equipment, bus services for field trips and new books. New or like-new women’s business clothes are also needed for the Corporate Women’s program, which helps women re-enter the workforce with clothing for interviews and resume help.

Volunteers are also in need to help out with all programs. Mentors are needed to

help the boys and girls enrolled in YWCA programs.

The YWCA serves more than 700 families through preschool, youth and family programs. For more ideas on ways to help the families and children the YWCA serves this holiday season, call the YWCA at 313-561-4110.

Continued from page 7

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-435

6A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth in accordance with the State of Michigan Uniform Traffic Code and the Romulus Code of Ordinances, designate fire lanes on the following streets:

Sussex Court from Surrey Drive to end of Cul-de-sac
W.B. Sussex Drive from Surrey Drive to Canterbury Drive
Surrey Court from Surrey Drive to End of Cul-de-sac
W.B. Surrey Drive from Hawthorne Drive to Surrey Court
Hawthorne Court from Hawthorne Drive to End of Cul-de-sac
E.B. Hawthorne Drive from Wayne Road to Surrey Drive.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-436

6A2b. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden in accordance with the State of Michigan Uniform Traffic Code and the Romulus Code of Ordinances, adopt a resolution to erect “Speed Limit 25 m.p.h.” signs at the following locations:

Southbound Canterbury Drive North of Sussex Drive
Canterbury Drive at Ecorse Road
Northbound Surrey Drive North of Sussex Court
Westbound Hawthorne Drive near Wayne Road.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-437

6A2c. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout in accordance with the State of Michigan Uniform Traffic Code and the Romulus Code of Ordinances, adopt a resolution to erect the following signs, “Residential Area, Commercial Vehicles Prohibited” at Westbound Hawthorne Drive near Wayne Road.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-438

6A2d. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden in accordance with the State of Michigan Uniform Traffic Code and the Romulus Code of Ordinances, adopt a resolution to post “Stop” signs at the following locations:

All vehicular traffic shall “STOP” on Hawthorne Court at Hawthorne Drive.
All vehicular traffic shall “STOP” on Hawthorne Drive at Wayne Road.
All vehicular traffic shall “STOP” on Westbound Hawthorne Drive at Surrey Drive.
All vehicular traffic shall “STOP” on Northbound Surrey Drive at Hawthorne Drive.
All vehicular traffic shall “STOP” on Sussex Court at Surrey Drive.
All vehicular traffic shall “STOP” on Sussex Drive at Surrey Drive.
Canterbury Drive at Ecorse Road to be posted -”STOP”.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-439

6A2e. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg in accordance with the State of Michigan Uniform Traffic Code and the Romulus Code of Ordinances, adopt a resolution to post “No Parking” on either side of Harrison Road between Eureka and Goddard Road.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-440

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve second reading and final adoption of Chapter 20, Article XIII, “Use of Replica or Facsimile Firearms” introduced at the Council Meeting held November 7, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-441

6A4. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with D.P.W. Director, Carl Brooks in accordance with Public Act 51, Public Acts 1951, and **adopt resolutions 05-442 through 05-472**, accepting jurisdiction of the following streets. Said streets to be added to the local public street system.

HIGHLANDS OF ROMULUS SUBDIVISION:

05-442 Eastwind Drive from Edinburgh Drive N. to 252.22ft.N. of Bay Berry Street.
05-443 Hillsbriar Drive from Eastwind Street West to End of Street.
05-444 Bay Berry Street from Eastwind Street East to Meadow Avenue.

05-445 Meadow Avenue from Bay Berry Street North to End.
05-446 Edinburgh Drive from Ironstone Lane to Eastwind Street.
05-447 Ironstone Lane from Heather Way to North of Edinburgh Drive.
05-448 Glasgow Court from Durness Drive to North to Ending.
05-449 Durness Drive from Heather Blvd. to Glasgow Court
05-450 Heather Way from Heather Blvd to West of Ironstone Lane.
05-451 Heather Blvd. From N. R-O-W of Penn. to Heather Way.

AVALON MEADOWS:

05-452 Hawthorne Drive from Wayne Road W. to Surrey Drive.
05-453 Hawthorne Court from Hawthorne Court to End of Cul-De-Sac.
05-454 Sussex Drive from Surrey Drive W. to Canterbury Drive.
05-455 Sussex Court from Surrey Drive E. to End of Cul-De-Sac.
05-456 Surrey Drive from Surrey Court N. to Hawthorne Drive.
05-457 Surrey Court from Surrey Drive E. to End of Cul-De-Sac.
05-458 Canterbury Drive from Sussex Drive North to Abbey Drive.
05-459 Abbey Drive from Canterbury Drive East to Townsend Drive.
05-460 Abbey Court from Canterbury Drive West to End of Cul-De-Sac.
05-461 Cambridge Drive from Ecorse Road South to Abbey Drive.
05-462 Townsend Drive from Abbey Drive South to Concord Drive.
05-463 Concord Drive from Townsend Drive West to Canterbury Drive.

FAIRWAYS AT GATEWAY PHASE II

05-464 Sand Piper Drive from Lochmoor Blvd W. West of Swan Lake.
05-465 Twin Oaks Drive from Augusta Drive North to Point of Ending
05-466 Mission Hills Drive from Augusta Drive North to Point of Ending
05-467 St. Andrews Drive from Gateway Drive S. of Augusta Drive.
05-468 Augusta Drive from Merriman West to St. Andrews Drive.
05-469 Doral Drive from Van Born Road S. to Point of Ending.
05-470 Bay Hill Drive from Doral Drive East to Swan Lake Drive.
05-471 Swan Lake Drive from Bay Hill Drive South to Sand Piper Drive.
05-472 Swan Lake Court from Swan Lake Drive to Point of Ending.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-473

6A4b. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution changing the local street designation of Vining Road between Wick and Smith and Smith Road between Vining and Merriman Roads from Local Streets to Major Streets.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-474

6A5. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 05/06-10 and 05/06-11 introduced at the Council Meeting held November 14, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-475

6A6. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to approve second reading and final adoption of Chapter 15, Article III, Sections 15-236 through Section 15-266 licensing of Apartment Houses, Rooming Houses, Hotels, Motels, and Bed & Breakfast.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-476

11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to authorize the City Treasurer to disburse funds of Warrant 05-22 in the grand total amount of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy Five Dollars and Five Cents (\$550,475.05).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 28, 2005.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 15, 2005



Special delivery

The girls of the Loch Rio Residential Treatment Facility of Girlstown in Belleville recently received early Christmas gifts thanks to Operation Good Cheer and Pilot Nick McMahon of McMahon Helicopter in Canton Township. Operation Good Cheer was started in 1971 by Ford Motor Co. and is coordinated by the Child and Family Services of Michigan. They currently provide gifts to 39 private nonprofit social service agencies in Michigan. They have helped Girlstown for the last seven years. Thousands of people volunteer to make this program happen including more than 100 pilots. Here McMahon (pictured) delivers the many gifts to the clients in the residential programs, foster care and supervised independent living.

Woman to face murder charge in beating death at motel

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

An Inkster woman charged with the beating death of a Wayne woman at the Michigan Motel will face second-degree murder charges early next year.

Melanie Ware, 35, was bound over for trial at the 22nd District Court after the court listened to several witnesses recount 37-year-old Carolyn Panther's last hours.

The events that led to Panther's death unfolded in the evening hours of Oct. 25.

After she and her son agreed to meet Ware and four other individuals in a hotel room, a fight ensued and Ware allegedly struck Panther on the head with a bottle.

Panther's son – who was with her at the time – intervened on his mother's behalf, and drove her to the home of a friend, Don Law. She was eventually taken to Annapolis Hospital, where she died of her injuries.

Law said no one realized how serious the woman's injuries were until it was too late.

"We knew she was hurt," he said. "But we had no idea she would die."

Police were notified of the woman's injuries by hospital staffers. They pieced

the incident together with earlier reports of a fight at the motel, police said. Ware was taken into custody shortly after the assault.

Police and friends said drugs may have been the motive behind the alleged beating. Law said Panther was a good person struggling with emotional issues.

"She didn't deserve this," he said. "This has been tough on the people who loved her – and Carolyn was very well loved."

Panther had taken steps to put her life back on track, he said. She attended classes in Washington to become a certified nurses aide, and had nearly completed the program before she came home to Michigan.

"She had half a degree, but she had trouble getting a job here," he said.

If convicted of second-degree murder, Ware could be incarcerated from 25 years to life up to life. She will appear in court during the next several weeks for a formal arraignment at the Wayne County Circuit Court.

The Michigan Motel – located at 27717 Michigan Ave. – has been the site of two beating deaths in the past two years. A 20-year-old man was beaten to death in early 2004 after a fight in the parking lot of the motel, according to police reports.

2005 was year of celebrations, challenges

Andrea King
Staff Writer

This year brought a lot of satisfaction and disappointment for Belleville officials.

On the good side of the ledger, the city celebrated its centennial and several park projects got under way. Financial concerns continued to plague the city, however.

Some of the major accomplishments city officials can check off their list include the completion of Doanne's Landing Park, a new council transition and a new police chief, according to Mayor Tom Fielder.

"It's always satisfying when you get good people in," he said. "Everyone seems to be pleased and excited about the new councilmembers and the decision with the police chief."

Other projects and plans to come out of the year include: the start of Horizon Park improvements through a \$1 million Wayne County parks grant, the cost-sharing agreement with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the downtown market analysis, the 10-year funding plan for vehicle replacement, the start of the Amerman property redevelopment and the beginnings of the updated city master plan.

"A lot of times the projects in transition are the exciting ones because we want to see how it will turn out," said Fielder.

However, the year also brought about many disappointments, primarily the lack of finances.

"On the financial side there is nothing positive," said City Manager Steve Walters. "We've had a deficit since July and built about half of it into the budget. Clearly Michigan's economy is not encouraging

with all the ups and downs."

"My frustration is that we have the ideas out there, but we're not getting them done because we don't know where the finances stand," added Fielder. "Obviously we're not doing a lot of new things because the finances are very tight. I joke that the DDA are the ones that have all the fun because they have the money and get to do the new things."

The lack of funds also ties into the hire of a new city treasurer and the decision on the Central Dispatch Network (CDN). Both have yet to be resolved. The delay in hiring a new treasurer is finding a good person for the position, according to Fielder.

"We want to hire someone we know is able to do the job," he said.

City officials are hopeful, however, about what the new year will bring, including several DDA projects like the repaving of Main Street, a CDN decision, a new emergency response vehicle for the fire department, new department of public safety vehicles and plans for a new and improved library. Construction on Horizon Park and the Amerman property will also start next year.

But the biggest challenge to come out of 2006, Fielder said, will be the budget.

"I hope we get a better handle on where we are financially so we can get a long-range plan. The community told us that they don't want to pay more so now we have to do a good job of budgeting so we can keep the doors open. It's going to be a big challenge for the council," he said.

"The community is changing dramatically and there's an excitement there," Fielder added.

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Police log

Flower power

A 34-year-old Northville woman notified security at the Meijer Sstore on Haggerty and Eight Mile roads in Northville Township after man pulled down his pants in front of her and her young children.

Police reports said the incident took place at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 2. The woman, with her 4-month-old son and 2-year-old daughter, was unloading grocery items when the suspect came into the check out lane behind her. He stood in front of his cart and behind hers. The victim's daughter was also behind the woman, and when she turned to check on her she noticed that the man had pulled down his snug-fitting jeans below his hips. She said she could see part of his thigh as well as purple Speedo underwear decorated with small blue flowers.

She quietly notified the cashier, who told the man he was on tape. He said 'Oops,' according to reports, and pulled up his pants. The victim later watched him as he completed his purchases and left the store.

He was described as about 5-feet, 10-inches tall, with dark, collar-length hair that was combed back and parted to reveal small sideburns.

Police sent out a notice to other law enforcement agencies to see if similar incidents had been reported elsewhere. The Westland Police Department had one with a similar suspect, this one at a McDonald's playland.

Township police tracked the man down and asked him about the two incidents and the suspect told police that he had pulled up his pants after he noticed they had slipped down. When further pressed, he told them: "I can't explain it. I'm trying to deal with it."

The suspect's name has been withheld pending warrants.

Holiday decorating

A maintenance supervisor at the Crossings at Canton apartments reported that someone had stolen furniture from a model apartment on Dec. 5. Doors to the model are ordinarily opened in the morning and left unlocked, the supervisor told police. It was unknown if staff locked them back up. There were no signs of forced entry, and no fingerprints were found. The front and patio doors to the model apartment were discovered unlocked. A couch, loveseat, mattress and box springs, dining room table, four chairs and a TV were all reported stolen. The materials belonged to a furniture rental company in Chicago, according to police reports.

Buy polar

A 39-year-old Plymouth woman was arrested last week for embezzlement from the Loehmann's Department store on Haggerty Road in Northville Township.

Police said they were notified of theft by store management, who caught it after a routine check of returns for more than \$100. During a subsequent interview with police, she confessed to making two returns off of receipts left behind by customers. The first was for \$60 on Nov. 26/ the second for \$149 on Nov. 29. In both cases, she removed the cash from her drawer at the end of her shift.

She told police that she was sorry and intended to pay back the money. She also claimed that she was bi-polar, and not taking her medication.

She was charged with embezzlement and given a court date of 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 22.

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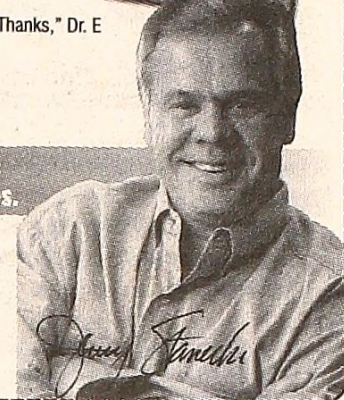
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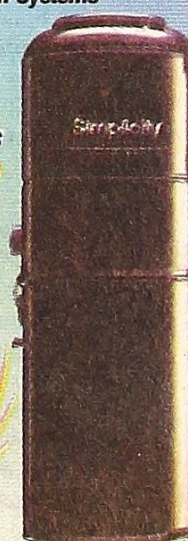
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CITY OF ROMULUS CHAPTER 15 ARTICLE III.

An Ordinance to amend the Romulus Code of Ordinances Chapter 15, Article III, Sections 15236 through Section 15-266, "Licensing of Apartment Houses, Rooming Houses, Hotels, Motels, and Bed & Breakfasts, and Provides Penalty for Violation thereof.

THE CITY OF ROMULUS, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the amended "Housing" Ordinance.

Sec. 15-236. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in Articles II and III, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Apartment House means any dwelling, or portion thereof, which is hired out to be occupied or which is occupied as a home or residence for three or more families living independently of each other in dwelling units.

Bed & Breakfast means a single family residential structure that has ten (10) or fewer sleeping rooms, including sleeping rooms occupied by the innkeeper, serves meals at no extra cost to its transient tenants.

Extended Lodging Facility means a residential facility intended to house a person for longer than one (1) month, having apartment style units, each with its own kitchen and lavatory, suite or otherwise.

Family means one (1) family unit, members of which are related by consanguinity or by marriage and shall also include those other persons six and less in number living together as a unit except for small group homes as defined under MCL 400.703, et seq., which are exempted from this ordinance.

Hotel means a dwelling structure providing rooms in which no provision for cooking is made, and/or conference facilities are provided, and is subject to the Innkeepers' Guest laws of the State of Michigan.

Lodginghouse and/or boardinghouse means a building or part thereof, other than a Hotel or Motel, where lodgings are provided for hire more or less transiently with or without provision of meals.

Motel means a dwelling structure providing rooms for rent to the public and subject to the Innkeepers' Guest laws of the State of Michigan in which no provision for cooking is made in each dwelling unit.

Roominghouse means any dwelling, or that part thereof containing one (1) or more rooming units, in which space is let by the owner or operator to three (3) or more persons who are not husband and wife, son or daughter, mother or father, or sister or brother, or otherwise related by blood or marriage, for more than one month in duration.

Sec. 15-237. Authority to make regulations.

The department of building and safety, the city fire department and police department are hereby authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article, copies of which shall be available for distribution to all interested persons.

Sec. 15-238. Health Requirements.

Premises licensed pursuant to this article shall at all times be occupied, kept and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the building and housing ordinances and regulations of the city and the housing law of the state. Where under the terms of any rental agreement it is the duty of any licensee to furnish linens, the licensee shall provide all beds with regulation sheets and pillowcases, the same to be laundered at least once each week; provided that each new guest or patron shall be furnished with clean sheets and pillowcases. Where towels are provided, the same shall be individual towels, furnished clean to each guest or patron, and laundered at least once a week, and common towels shall not be permitted. Any licensee having notice or knowledge that the licensed premises contain any vermin shall, within forty-eight (48) hours, report the same to the county board of health, and shall cause the same to be exterminated by such means as shall be approved by the county board of health, within five (5) days from the date upon which licensee first had notice or knowledge of the existence of the same. Where food is served to guests in any premises, the licensee shall be subject to and shall fully comply with all provisions of Chapter 13.

Sec. 15-239. Registration.

Every holder of a license for a Lodginghouse, hotel, Motel, Bed & Breakfast, Roominghouse or Extended Lodging Facility shall provide and maintain a bound book in which shall be entered in ink, the name and home address of any person other than members of the same family as listed in the application for the license, occupying the premises or any part thereof. The register shall also show the make and license number of any motor vehicle owned or used by each registrant and list either the driver's license number or state identification number of each registrant. The register shall be maintained in the premises in plain view and in a convenient place near the main entrance and shall be submitted upon demand to any official or police officer of the city or to any public officer of the state. The register shall constitute a public record. This section does not apply to Apartment Houses or Roominghouses.

Sec. 15-240. Rental.

(a) No room or unit of premises which is a Lodginghouse, Hotel, Motel, Extended Lodging Facility, or Bed & Breakfast, as defined in the provisions of this article, shall be rented or let for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours, nor shall any such

room or unit be rented or let to more than one (1) tenant for each twenty-four hour period. The right to occupy any such room or unit shall not be assigned, transferred, or sublet. No licensee shall approve, suffer, or permit the assignment, transfer or subletting of any such room or unit.

(b) No such room or unit shall be used for any unlawful act. No person shall occupy or use as a guest or a tenant or be permitted to occupy or use as a guest or tenant any Lodginghouse, Hotel, Motel, Bed & Breakfast, or other similar accommodations for a period of more than one (1) month in any calendar year.

Sec. 15-241. Payment of rent; damages.

Occupants of premises licensed pursuant to this article shall not do or perform any act therein which will in any way damage the premises, nor shall they permit the occupancy of any room or portion of the premises let to them, by persons other than those registered with the licensee, without the express knowledge and consent of the licensee. No person shall vacate any room or any premises or part thereof without having fully paid all items of rentals due for his occupancy thereof.

Sec. 15-242 - 15-255. Reserved.

Sec. 15-256. License.

No person shall use, operate, or occupy or cause to be used, operated, or occupied, any building, structure, or premises within the city as a Hotel, Motel, Bed & Breakfast, Extended Living Facility, Roominghouse, Lodginghouse, or as Apartment House or any combination thereof, unless there is in his possession and posted on such building, structure, or premises in a conspicuous place an unrevoked license of current issue as provided in this statute.

Sec. 15-257. Application.

Application for a license required by this ordinance shall be made in writing to the city clerk, upon a form provided for that purpose, and shall be filed with the city clerk. The application shall include the applicant's name and address, the interests in the building and the location thereof, the name and address of the owner of record of the building and premises; if the applicant is a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners; if the applicant is a corporation, the names and addresses of the officers thereof; a list of the rooms, suites or beds therein, indicating the size of the rooms, number of beds in each room, sanitary facilities and the maximum number of persons to whom it is desired to rent the premises when rented at full occupancy; and a description of the accommodations available for such family occupancy, and such other information as may be required by the regulations authorized in Section 15-237.

Sec. 15-258. Fees.

Each application for a license under this subdivision shall be accompanied by the fee specified from time to time by City Council, by resolution properly adopted.

Sec. 15-259. Investigation.

Upon receipt of an application for a license required by this ordinance in proper form, the city clerk shall refer the same to the department of building and safety, ordinance, and the fire department, each of whom shall make an inspection and investigation, together with a written report and recommendation. The object of such investigation and inspection is to determine whether or not the building and premises are in compliance with all ordinances of the city and statutes of the State of Michigan that would apply to such building and premises and the clerk shall verify that the applicant has no previous convictions for violation of the ordinances of the City or statute of the State of Michigan that apply to the business to be operated on the premises.

Sec. 15-260. Issuance.

Upon filing with the city clerk a proper application for a license required by this ordinance, together with the required fee, and upon the filing with the city clerk of written reports from the department of building and safety, the fire department and the ordinance department recommending the issuance of such license, the city clerk shall issue to the applicant in the name of the city a license subject to the provisions of this article.

The issuance of a license shall not be construed as a waiver of any requirements of the Romulus Zoning Ordinance or any other applicable state, local, or federal law.

Sec. 15-261. Form.

Each license under this division shall contain the name and address of the licensee, and a brief description of the premises for which the license was issued, including the type of accommodation, maximum number of rooms or units that may be rented, maximum number of persons permitted to occupy such premises at any one time and such other information as may be required by this article.

Sec. 15-262. Posting.

Each license issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises for which it was issued.

Sec. 15-263. Duration.

All licenses issued herein under this ordinance shall expire on the last day of the year, unless sooner revoked or suspended. All licenses issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be renewed annually.

Sec. 15-264. Transfer.

No license issued under this ordinance shall be transferred or assigned.

Sec. 15-265. Causes of denial and revocation; notice.

(a) Any license requested under this ordinance may be refused by the city clerk. Any

Continued on page 11

OBITUARIES

BRIGGS, Jeremy

Jeremy Richard Briggs, 23, a lifelong resident of Ypsilanti, died Nov. 14.

Among his survivors are his parents, Richard (Jennifer) Briggs of Westland and Annette (Ostrowski) Briggs of Ypsilanti; siblings, Amanda and Jeffrey Briggs, both of Ypsilanti, Thomas, Chris, Timothy and Cameron Briggs, all of Westland; his maternal grandmother, Martha Ostrowski of Belleville; paternal grandparents Richard and Heddy Briggs of Rose City; several aunts, uncles and cousins, and a niece, Isabel Briggs of Ypsilanti.

Mr. Briggs was a member of High Point Community Church in Ypsilanti. He participated in and won several medals in the Special Olympics. He enjoyed being a disc-jockey on a Washtenaw radio station.

Funeral services were at New Life Bible Baptist Church with Pastor Shawn Hess and Pastor Rocky Lindley officiating.

Interment was at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

MCLAUGHLIN, April

April Ann McLaughlin, 46, a life-long resident of Belleville, died Nov. 22.

Among her survivors are her mother,

Sharon Jean (Vickers) McLaughlin of Belleville; brothers, Dwayne McLaughlin of Jackson and Dean McLaughlin of Detroit; an aunt, Linda Grayless of Belleville, uncles, Danny Vickers and Donald Vickers, both of Jackson; a sister-in-law, Joyce McLaughlin of Belleville, and several other aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with Pastor Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at the Union-Udell Cemetery in Ypsilanti Township.

POLKA, Andrew

Andrew P. Polka, Jr., 83, of Romulus, died Nov. 22.

Among his survivors are his wife, Eleanor A. (Keskinen) Polka; children, Barbara (John) Chenoweth of New Mexico, Joe (Krysalis) Polka of Washington; Frank Polka of Indiana and Pete (Andrea) Polka of Plymouth; brothers, Josphe (Delores) Polka of Redford Township, Walter (Gertrude) Polka of Tennessee, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Polka was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He retired from Marathon Oil Co. and was a lifetime member of the Romulus VFW 9568.

He was also a member of the 96th Infantry Division Retirees.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with Father Festus Ejimadu

of St. Aloysius Catholic Church officiating. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

HALL, Jesse

Jesse Gerald Hall, 89, of Augusta Township, died Dec. 3.

Among his survivors are his children, Gerald (Dianne Lynn) Hall of Willis, Bruce (Joan) Hall of Saline, Dennis Hall of Tecumseh and David (Darlene) Hall of Willis; brothers, Carl Cleo (Fern) Hall of Belleville, Farrell (Mary Ellen) Hall of Arkansas and W.D. (Virginia) Hall also of Arkansas; sisters, Lenora Gray of Warren, Charlsie Gray, also of Warren, Edith Daniels and Retha Stevens, both of Arkansas; 14 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Hall served the U.S. Army during World War II. He retired from General Motors Corp. in 1980.

Graveside funeral services were at Concord Cemetery in Arkansas with the Rev. Noble Wiles officiating.

Local arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

MEISEL, Elaine

Elaine Marie Meisel, 62, of Arizona, formerly of Willis, died Nov. 20.

Among her survivors are her husband, Daniel Meisel; her children, Carrie (Daniel) Trammell of Willis, Chris Moulds and Gary Moulds, both of Osseo; a step-son, Daniel “Butch” (Essie) Meisel of Southgate; sisters, Diane (Ziggy) Meitner and Jeannie Townrow, both of Canada, and nine grandchildren.

A memorial service was at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

Cremation rites were accorded.

Continued from page 10

license issued under the provisions of this division may be revoked or suspended by the mayor or city clerk at any time upon notice to the licensee which will be effective ten (10) days after notice if there is no appeal under Section 15266, for any of the following causes:

- (1) Fraud or misrepresentation in the application for license;
- (2) Fraud or misrepresentation in the operation of the licensee’s business;
- (3) Any violation of this article;
- (4) Any violation of the ordinances of the City;
- (5) Any violation of the laws of the state or of the United States
- (6) Conducting a business in an unlawful manner or in such a manner as to constitute a breach of the peace or a menace to the health, morals, safety, or welfare of the public, or creates a nuisance;
- (7) Any failure or inability on the part of the applicant to meet and satisfy the requirements and provisions of this article.

(b) Written notice of refusal, revocation, or suspension, stating the cause therefor, shall be delivered to the applicant or licensee personally, or mailed to the address stated in his application.

Sec. 15-266. Appeal.

Any person whose license issued pursuant to this ordinance is revoked or suspended and any person whose request for a license is refused shall have the right to a hearing before the city council, provided a written request therefor is filed with the city clerk within ten (10) days following the delivery or mailing of notice of revocation or suspension or within ten (10) days following such refusal. The city council shall have the right to affirm and sustain any refusal to issue a license, or any revocation or suspension of a license, and the city council may grant or reinstate any license.

SECTION 2: Saving Clause. Nothing in this Ordinance or in the Code hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court or administrative body, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing under any Act or Ordinance hereby repealed by this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: Severability. Should any section, subsection, clause, or other component of this Article be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise impermissible, it shall be deemed separate and distinct from the remainder of the Article and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Article.

SECTION 4: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication in the official newspaper.

I, Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance duly adopted by the Romulus City Council at its regular meeting held on the 28th day of November, 2005.

Linda R. Choate, CMC,
Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

ATTEST: Alan R. Lambert, Mayor

Within forty-five (45) days after the publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance continuing in effect. Said petition shall contain the text of such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six percent (6%) of the registered electors registered at the last preceding election at which a Mayor of the City as elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

INTRODUCED: November 7, 2005
ADOPTED: November 28, 2005
PUBLISH: December 15, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS
REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS
BID 05/06-21 TWO (2) ZERO RADIUS MOWERS

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/items.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Coordinator, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by Emailing: Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

(2) Bids must be received by the City Clerk’s Office no later than 2:00pm, Tuesday, January 10, 2005. At which time said bids are to be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE ADDRESSED:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK’S OFFICE
BID 05/06-21 - TWO (2) ZERO RADIUS MOWERS
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan

(3) The right is reserved to reject all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: December 15, 2005

THE CITY OF ROMULUS
REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS
FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Bid 05/06-22 - Five (5) 24/7 High Intensity Dispatcher Task Chairs
Bid 05/06-20 - Five (5) 2006 Ford, Crown Victoria, Police
Interceptors

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/s and/or service/s.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Coordinator, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us.

(2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the City Clerk’s Office no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 20, 2005. At that time said bids would be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE BID NUMBER
AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED TO:

BID #
CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK’S OFFICE
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan, 48174

(3) The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: December 15, 2005

SPORTS

Young Vikings upset Belleville in opener

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

If you ask Inkster's varsity basketball coach Gerald Paschal to describe his team this year, the first thing he might say is: young. Another might be 'promising.'

"We're still real young," he said. "I'll be starting three sophomores this year, but I like the look of the team."

The look of the team is similar to last years', with a lot of familiar faces and a few new ones.

Guards Rico McCoy and Demarko Williams are back for their senior years as is forward Jonathon Brown and guard/forward Felix Kizer. Senior forward Antonio Von had some playing time last season and will also return to the line up.

Underclassman returning to the hardwood are junior guard JJ Snelling, junior forward Johnny Crawford, sophomore guard/forward Antonio Green and sophomore guard Alfonso Lewis.

As a freshman, Lewis was selected to the second team All-Mega, according to Paschal.

There are few new faces to the roster this year, too.

Inkster has two other seniors, forwards Deonte Scott and Duschon Stanton, joining the ranks this year along with junior forward Michael Bailey, junior guard Lawrence Matthews and sophomore forward Renty Rollins.

"We're committed to a young team but they played a lot of ball over the summer and have really improved," Paschal said. "I think we'll probably struggle early but then we'll be

okay."

Not only are they young but smaller, too. Inkster lost a lot of height when 6-foot-8 forward Jairocey Simpson graduated after last season. Their tallest players are Bailey - at 6-foot-4 - and Rollins, at 6-foot-3.

However, Paschal liked what he saw in scrimmages against Lansing Eastern and Oak Park earlier this fall.

"It was actually scary," he said. "I thought that they were further advanced than I thought they would be at this point. They were poised—that's the perfect word to describe them. I was throwing a lot of things at them and they handled everything."

He also said he hoped to use the Tuesday's season opener against Belleville as a gauge of the how the season will go.

If that's the case, they may do pretty well, indeed.

The Vikings upset the Tigers, 53-49.

Defense was the key, according to Paschal.

"We kept changing our defense," Paschal said. "After so many passes we would change and I think that kept them out of sync. They run a pretty good flex offense and we just tried to keep them out of that."

Inkster jumped to an 8-0 start early in the first, but Belleville found a groove and made it an 11-7 game to finish out the period.

Two of Belleville's guards got their offense going in the second, according to Belleville Coach Mike Krogel. Senior Carlos Clark and junior Darius Hardrick helped the Tigers outscore Inkster, 14-13, in the second frame to make it a 24-

21 game, still in Inkster's favor.

In the third, Belleville kept its momentum going and overtook the lead, 36-32.

"At first I was a little concerned because this was Belleville and I called a timeout," Paschal said. "But I saw how excited they were to take the lead and I thought they may have been a little tired. So, I told a Richard Pryor joke in the huddle. No one laughed except the coaches. I just wanted to keep them loose."

It must have worked. Belleville finished the third with a 36-33 lead, but the fourth frame belonged to the Vikings.

Inkster outscored Belleville 20-13 in the final session for the upset. Sophomore Antonio Green led all scorers with 20 points. Snelling added eight, which included two triples in the final minutes of the fourth to put the game away, according to Paschal.

Junior guard Cara Dial led Belleville with 14. Hardrick added 13 and Clark 11. Clark also grabbed nine rebounds in the contest.

"We just couldn't get offense going in the fourth," Krogel said. "They zoned us a majority of the game. We were without (Leon) Freeman and (Mike) Gibson so that left us small and we had a hard time getting inside, forcing us to shoot from the perimeter."

"The kids played hard and I'm not disappointed," he added. "We just didn't knock down enough shots."

Belleville heads to Willow Run at 7 p.m. tomorrow for their next match-up. Inkster is off to Wyandotte at 7 p.m. tomorrow.



The Chiefs' senior captain Kevin Tollison (19) defends behind Canton's net in an 8-2 victory against Dearborn Heights Crestwood last Wednesday. The team fell to Chelsea, 6-2, on Saturday.

Soft goals hand Canton hard loss

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Chelsea scored four unanswered goals to put the Chiefs away, 6-2, on Saturday at the Arctic Edge ice arena in Canton Township.

Canton overcame a two-point deficit to tie the game, 2-2, in the second period but some soft goals led to Chelsea's victory.

Chelsea was on the board early with a goal from Nick Biciocchia at the 14:21 mark. They added a second score about three minutes later from Schyler Williams, but Canton answered with a tally from senior forward Kyle Kowalski, assisted by senior forward Brett Giacomino, at 9:26.

Canton's senior defenseman Kevin Tollison evened things up, 2-2, at about the nine-minute mark. Kowalski earned the assist on the play. That would be the only scores for the Canton as Chelsea went on to score three goals in the second and thier

final one in the third.

Ryan Ruikka, Travis Amburgey scored at 5:56 and 2:29, respectively. Then Ruikka added his second of the period with only two seconds remaining.

Michael Bazydlo scored in the third to put the game away, 6-2.

"I thought we actually played pretty well," said Canton Coach Mike Behen. "We fore checked with intensity and discipline and moved the puck pretty well at times. Problems involved a couple of soft goals at inopportune times."

Depite the loss, Behen said there were some positives he and the team could take from the game.

"Chelsea is a very good, well-coached team and we skated with them for the most part," he said. "We're heading in the right direction and improving every game. It will take time but we'll get there. And I think the kids are beginning to realize this, too."

Canton 8, Crestwood 2

Canton had better results in last Wednesday's contest, defeating Crestwood, 8-2.

They led, 2-1, after the first period with goals from junior forward Jesse Pletch and junior forward Brad Barath. Giacomino and Kowalski each received credit for assists on the plays.

Giacomino and Chris Wies scored in the second to give the Chiefs a 4-1 lead. Shane Roring and Tollison notched assists.

Then Weis scored twice with assists from Giacomino and Shawn Ruman. Kowalski scored unassisted and Ryan Lash - with help from Pletsch - scored in the final period for the 8-2 victory.

"We started a bit sloppy or disorganized but we pulled together in the second and played more disciplined, more under control—smarter," Behen said.

Canton heads to Livonia to face off against Churchill at 6 p.m. on Friday and Walled Lake Central at 1:20 pm on Saturday.

Wildcat hoopsters drop season opener, 63-53

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

In their opening night 10-point loss to Mega-White opponent Dearborn Heights Robichaud, Plymouth Wildcats varsity coach Tom Van Wagoner said his team had a case of the opening night jitters.

That nervousness allowed the Bulldogs to jump out to a 17-9 advantage after the first stanza. Robichaud took a 32-19 lead into the locker room.

The game seemed to be a tale of two halves, though.

Plymouth (0-1) held the Bulldogs (3-0) to four points in the third quarter and closed the gap to 36-32 going into the final period.

The Wildcats carried that momentum into the final period, as senior forward Josh Le Duc started the fourth with a pilfer and slam to cut Robichaud's lead in half. Le Duc followed that sequence with a big block on the defensive end. Plymouth's early flurry wasn't enough, though; as the Bulldogs went on to outscore the Wildcats, 27-21, to close out the game.

"We were down two and in a good position against a good opponent," Van Wagoner said. "They made some plays down the stretch that we didn't."

Plymouth's free throw shooting didn't help their cause. The 'Cats went 11-22 from the stripe.

Le Duc turned in a solid performance on both ends of the floor, netting 14 points and pulling down 15 boards. He also recorded seven blocked shots. Senior guard D.J. Coleman chipped in with 15 points, while his backcourt mate, Brent Jones, scored seven. Jones also handed out seven assists and had six swipes.

Robichaud is tough, and you have to play good teams to be good yourself.

Tom Van Wagoner

Venzell Russell paced Robichaud with 22 points. Tim Hunt and Aaron Crump put in 10 and nine points, respectively.

Van Wagoner said the loss wouldn't affect his preseason outlook. He said he thinks his squad can

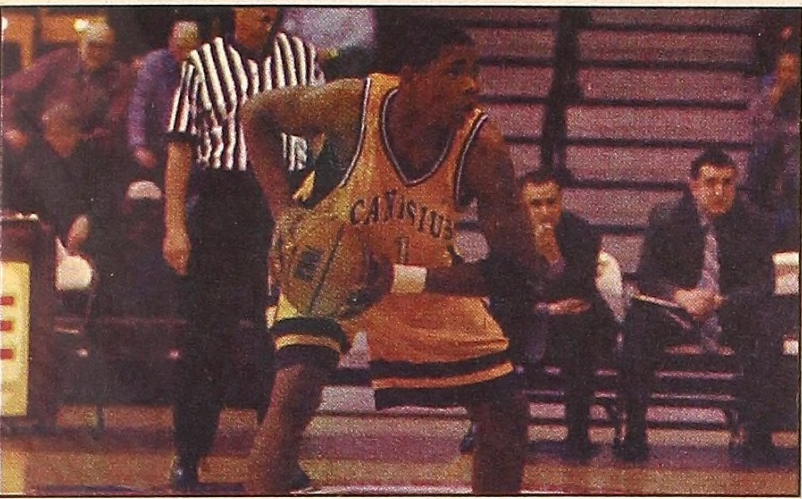
improve on last season's 11-9 mark.

"We have a nice mix of experience, youth, and athleticism," Van Wagoner said. "The team is setting challenging goals."

"Robichaud is tough, and you have to play good teams to be good yourself."

Plymouth next hits the court on Dec. 20 and 21 for the Chelsea Holiday Tournament. The 'Cats tussle with Lincoln Park, scheduled for Dec. 9 and canceled due to inclement weather, was rescheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 9 in Lincoln Park.

SPORTS



Former John Glenn Basketball star, Darnell Wilson, is back in town to help his Canisius College Golden Griffins take on University of Detroit-Mercy on Saturday. Photo courtesy of Everitt and Marcella Wilson.

Glenn star returns home

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Former John Glenn High School basketball star Darnell Wilson will be back in town to play ball for the first time in nearly a year.

Now in his third year at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., Wilson and the rest of his Golden Griffins team will take on the University of Detroit-Mercy on Saturday.

"I definitely excited to come home and see my family and friends," Wilson said. "It will be a good time and it will be good game."

Last year, he came back to the Detroit area when the Griffins took on Eastern Michigan University.

Wilson made a name for himself at John Glenn where he helped turn the Rockets' program around in his sophomore season with the emergence of head coach Joel Lloyd. With the guidance of Lloyd and under the leadership of Wilson, the Rockets won back-to-back league championships during his junior and senior years, Wilson said.

As a senior, Wilson averaged 20 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks per contest and was named all-area, all-league and all-tournament. He was named MVP twice and earned defensive MVP honors.

He was also rated as one of the top five power forwards in Michigan by prepspotlight.com.

See Wilson, page 14

Canton falls to Monroe, 43-38

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

A 43-38 loss to Monroe on the hardwood last Tuesday wasn't the way Canton Coach Charlie Paye wanted to start the season, but turnovers and first-game jitters were more of an opponent than the Trojans were.

"It was a sloppy game," he said. "You could tell that it was both teams' first game. We had 22 turnovers in the game. It was good that we were able to hang around, but you can't win when you turn the ball over 22 times. It would be easy to say it was nerves for being the first game but we can't do that."

It took the Chiefs until the four-minute mark of the first quarter to score their first points, according to Paye. After that they only managed two more the rest of the frame. They trailed 8-4 going into the second period and recorded eight turnovers.

"We missed some easy shots early and that changed the momentum on us," Paye said.

He said his team played much better in the second, outscoring Monroe, 13-11, and cut the Trojans' lead to 19-17 at the half. The third remained close, but Monroe pulled ahead by another point, outscoring the Canton, 11-10. Despite the sloppy play Canton earned the lead in

the fourth with about six minutes left in the game, but they couldn't hold on as the Trojans finished the game strong for the 43-38 win.

Jay Thompson and Josh Cook each scored 11 for the Trojans.

Junior center Ryan Waidmann led the Chiefs with 11 points and eight rebounds. Senior forward Andre Bridges added eight points with six rebounds and three assists.

"It wasn't a pretty game to watch but it was competitive," Paye said. "I think it woke the kids up a little bit and showed them that they just can't show up and play."

Canton only has three seniors on the squad: Guard Rob Eppler and forwards Andy Larsen and Bridges. The rest of the team is made up of 10 juniors and one sophomore.

Larsen contributed one point in the loss to Monroe and recorded three assists and three blocked shots. Eppler added seven points with two steals.

Of the juniors, Steve Paye and Waidmann played on last year's varsity team while the rest were brought up from the junior varsity crew.

Steve Paye knocked down seven points against the Trojans and nabbed six rebounds.

At 6-foot-5, junior forward Eric Thornton will add some size while Ryan Langdon, Eric

Zech, Josh Butler and Pete Boucher add depth at guard. Other forwards include Nick Vukceвич, Deverone Jackson and Caleb Lerner. Sophomore forward Neil Sharma is the youngest member of the team.

Butler contributed four points in the team's first game.

The Chiefs will host South Lyon at 7 p.m. on Friday in a non-conference contest. Canton opens conference play against neighboring rivals Salem at home at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13.

Canton to host 2005 Santa Slam youth basketball camp

Canton High School, in association with the Detroit Pistons, will put on their second annual "Santa Slam" youth basketball camp. The camp, conducted by Canton girl's basketball head coach Brian Samulski, will be take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 29-30.

Samulski led the Lady Chiefs to a district championship this past season.

The camp is opened for boys and girls ages 5-12. The \$75 registration fee covers both days of the training camp.

Registration can be done online at www.santaslam.com. For more information and questions call 866-89SANTA (72682).

Canton High School is located at 8415 Canton Center Road in Canton Township, MI 48003.

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SPORTS

Nie traded, Vigilante signs NHL contract

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

There was plenty of action on and off the ice for the Plymouth Whalers' organization last week.

Their off-ice activity included big trades and huge acquisitions all in effort to sort out their overage player situation. Ontario Hockey League teams can play just three overage team members—players with 1985 birth-days.

Mike Vellucci, Plymouth Whalers' president, general manager and head coach made two deals to fix the situation and help the Whalers reach the next level.

In the first transaction, he traded two fourth-round draft choices—one in 2006 and one in 2007—for Belleville Bulls' defenseman Steve Spade.

In the second deal, Vellucci traded the newly acquired Spade and long-time Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie for 19-year-old goaltender Justin Peters from the Toronto St. Michael's Majors.

"Ryan Nie's been a quality goaltender for us and his statistics speak for themselves," Vellucci said. "But with this move, we free up an overage spot and get a quality goaltender in Peters, who could come back to play next season for us. Being a Carolina Hurricanes draft pick, we're very familiar with him. His playoff statistics are outstanding."

Peters, a second round pick

(38th overall) of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes in 2004, was selected in the third round (59th overall) by Toronto in the 2002 OHL Draft and has been Toronto's number one goaltender for the last two-and-a-half seasons. He holds a 2.92 career goals against average in 154 games played for Toronto.

Peters has a sterling playoff record, too.

In 35 playoff games, he has a 2.25 goals against average, .929 save percentage and a 15-12 win-loss record for Toronto, who went to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2002-03 and 2003-04 and the Eastern Conference Semi-Finals last season.

Nie has also been a standout goalie in his career with the Whalers.

He was selected by the Whalers in 9th round (179th overall) in the 2001 Ontario Hockey League Draft and has played his entire career in Plymouth. He appeared in his 100th career game for the Whalers last Thursday night in a 6-3 victory in Sarnia against the Sting. He has played in 21 games this season with a 3.24 goals against average and .915 save percentage.

With the acquisition of defenseman Derek Merlini (Clinton Township) from Erie the previous week and now the trade of Nie, the three Whaler overage players are Merlini, defenseman Mike Letizia and left wing John

Vigilante.

Vigilante, originally from Dearborn, signed a professional contract with the National Hockey League's Nashville Predators, but will play with the Admirals of the American Hockey League. He is expected to be back in Plymouth Dec. 28.

"We're very happy for John," Vellucci said. "He's been an excellent Whaler for a long time and has worked very hard for this opportunity."

As of last week Vigilante was Plymouth's leading scorer this season with 14 goals and 34 assists for 48 points in 28 games. Originally selected in the 11th round (209th overall) in the 2001 OHL Draft, Vigilante is currently 10th on the Whalers' all-time career scoring list with 83 goals and 134 assists for 217 points. He's 11th on the team's career games played list with 227.

He is also the Whalers' all-time leader with 23 game-winning goals in his career to date.

The 6-foot-7, 248 pound Merlini from Clinton Township was originally selected by Erie in the 14th round (266th overall) in the 2001 OHL Draft by Erie and spent two full seasons with the Otters. He scored 12 goals with 31 assists and 43 points and served 192 penalty minutes in 132 games.

He scored his first goal of the season and as a Whaler in Plymouth's victory against Sarnia last Thursday.

Wilson

FROM PAGE 11

Wilson was then heavily recruited by Canisius. He signed with the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) school on a four-year scholarship and is now a junior working toward an undergraduate degree in communications with a concentration in television production.

To say that his first two years playing ball as a Griff was good would be an understatement. He started playing almost right away, earning a spot half way through his freshman season.

Last year he was ranked 22nd in the MAAC conference in scoring (11.3 points per game), eighth in rebounding (6.6 per game), seventh in field goal percentage (.502) and sixth in blocked shots (1.5). His 43 blocked shots was the 10th most in a single season in the school's history.

He averaged 12.5 points a game with the MAAC All-Star Team during the 2005 China Tour—helping the team win all seven of its games.

In his rookie season, Wilson was named to the MAAC All-Rookie team and also named Rookie of the Week after posting a then career highs of 17 points and 11 rebounds in a victory at Fairfield.

Although Canisius has only won one game so far this season, Wilson is on pace to break personal bests as well as team records this year.

So far in six games he has registered 86 points, averaging 14.3 per outing. He's led the team the last two games with 22 points and 16 points against Siena on Sunday night—the club's only win. He leads the team in rebounding (37) and blocked shots (9) and has six steals in six games. And, as of last week, was ranked second in the MAAC in field goal percentage (.573).

The Buffalo News even nicknamed him 'Skywalker' in his freshman year because every time he touched the ball he went airborne, according to his mother, Marcella.

"He's a Scotty Pippen-like player," said his father, Everitt. "He gives 110 percent, win or lose. He's aggressive and very intimidating."

That's Wilson on the court. Off, he is a completely different person.

"He's very humble, very personable and spiritual," Marcella said. "He's a nice guy but plays with all of his heart—a lion's heart."

Both parents agreed that their son would make it to the next level because of his hard work ethic and drive to be the best. They hope that pro scouts next year will consider their young 'Skywalker'.

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SPORTS

New goalie stops 44 shots, earns first victory as Whaler

It didn't talk long for the Whalers' new goalie Justin Peters to make an impact. He stopped 44 shots en route to a 6-3 victory over the Owen Sound Attack in a home contest on Saturday.

Plymouth also received plenty of offensive help in the win, including two goals each from Gino Pisellini and Steve Ward. Dan Collins and Andrew Fournier added single goals for Plymouth, while James Neal added three assists.

On Monday, Neal was named OHL Player of the Week.

Owen Sound's Bobby Ryan recorded a hat trick, scoring all thee of his team's goals.

Plymouth's victory—coupled with Saginaw's 2-1 loss to Barrie Saturday night—moves the Whalers back into a first place tie with the Spirit (18-11-0-0) in the OHL's West Division. Plymouth improved to 16-10-1-3 with 36 points with the win.

Ryan opened the scoring with his 21st goal of the year at 12:43 of the first period, but Collins replied 33 seconds later with his team-leading 22nd goal of the year. Ward then gave the Whalers the lead, 2-1, with a shot that beat Attack goalie Kyle Knechtel at 16:21.

Plymouth's hard work continued in the next period. At 2:00 of the second, Fournier scored on a wrap-around for a 3-1 advantage. Ryan cut the Plymouth lead to 3-2 at 7:50 of the frame with his second of the night, but Pisellini scored at 9:26 to restore the Whalers two-goal lead. Ryan completed his hat trick at 13:21 to make it a 4-3 game.

The key play for the Whalers came with 8.5 second left in the second period when Ward fired his second shot past Knechtel with 2.7 seconds left in the period, giving the Whalers a 5-3 lead.

Pisellini completed the scoring with his second of the night—a shorthanded tally at 6:30 of the third period.

Plymouth is on the road all of this week, playing in Peterborough at 7 p.m. tonight, in Oshawa at 7:30 pm on Friday and Toronto at 2 p.m. on Sunday before taking a break for Christmas. Plymouth's next home game is at 2 p.m. on Wed. Dec 28 against the Windsor Spitfires.

Plymouth 6, Samia 3

Six different Whalers scored en route to a 6-3 victory over the Sting last Thursday night at the Sports and Entertainment Centre in Sarnia.

James Neal scored in the first period. Dan Collins scored his 21st goal of the season in the second along with single scorers, Tom Sestito, Steve Ward and Andrew Fournier. Derek Merlini, a recently acquired defensemen from Erie, scored in the third.

Collins and Sestito scored 0:20 apart in the second period (8:35 and 8:55) to overcome a 2-1 Sarnia lead and then Ward scored on a power play at 10:22 to give the Whalers a 4-2 lead they didn't relinquish.

The victory marked Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie's 100th regular season game for the Whalers.

CITY OF ROMULUS

FILL VACANCIES

The City of Romulus is looking for citizens to fill vacancies as they occur on city boards and commissions.

Some meetings are held during the day, although most meet in the evening. If you are interested in becoming involved with your city and feel your talent could be a benefit to a board or commission, please forward a letter of interest to:

Linda Choate, City Clerk

Romulus City Hall

11111 Wayne Rd.

Romulus, MI 48174

Publish:

December 15, 2005

Charter Township of Van Buren

Notice of Public Hearing

Residents of Van Buren Township are notified that at the December 20, 2005, Township Board meeting at Township Hall, a Public Hearing will open for discussion of the General Fund and all Special Revenue Funds, or other budgetary matters. The 2005 Amended General Fund Budget proposal totals \$11,705,105; the proposed 2006 General Fund Budget totals \$13,050,491. The Special Revenue Funds under consideration are Fiscal Year CDBG, D.D.A., Capital Improvement Fund, Landfill Fund, Museum Fund, Bemis Road Project (SAD), Lohr Road SAD, 911 Service Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund, State Forfeiture Fund and Cable Fund. Each of these funds has an anticipated budget which is available for public review. Consideration of each of the funds will be heard at the Public Hearing and will be an agenda items for Board deliberation. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The specific proposals are available for your review in the Clerk's office, on Monday, December 12, 2005, at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

Joannie Payne, CMC

Township Clerk

Publish:

December 15, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS

CHAPTER 20

ARTICLE XIII

An Ordinance to amend the Romulus Code of Ordinances Chapter 20, Entitled "Offenses", to add Article XIII, Sections 20-294 through 20-297, "Use of Replica or Facsimile Firearms"

THE CITY OF ROMULUS, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the amended "Offenses" Ordinance.

Sec. 20-294. Purpose of this Article.

The purpose of this Article is to protect the public health, safety, and well-being against the dangers posed by improper use of replica, facsimile, or imitation firearms.

Sec. 20-295. Replica, Facsimile, or Imitation firearm defined:

As used in this section, "replica," facsimile," or "imitation" firearm shall be synonymous and shall be defined as any object, whether metallic, plastic, or of other material, fashioned to resemble and which might reasonably be perceived to be a real or operational firearm and shall include, but shall not be limited to: bb guns, paint-ball guns, pellet guns, cap guns, squirt guns, air guns, starter pistols, prop guns, and toy guns.

Sec. 20-296. Unlawful use, exceptions.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(1) brandish, aim, point, or exhibit to any other person a replica, imitation, or facsimile firearm in such a manner as to frighten, threaten, harass, panic, or annoy any other person, or

(2) to brandish, aim, point, or exhibit to any other person a replica or facsimile firearm with disregard for whether such action would reasonably frighten, threaten, harass, panic, or annoy any other person, or

(3) to carry or possess, whether concealed or displayed, a replica, imitation, or facsimile firearm in a motor vehicle, in an area readily accessible to the driver or any occupant of the vehicle, with the intent to frighten, threaten, harass, panic, or annoy any other person. Carrying or concealing any such firearm under a seat, in the glove box, or in any other compartment or area of a motor vehicle readily accessible to the driver or any occupant shall be deemed a prima facie rebuttable inference of such intent.

(4) The provisions of subsection (a) above shall not apply to:

i. a replica, imitation, or facsimile firearm which, because of its exaggerated size or distinctive color could not reasonably be perceived to be a real or operational firearm, or

ii. the use of a replica, imitation, or facsimile firearm in the course of a dramatic, theatrical, stage, or motion picture production.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to brandish, aim, point, or exhibit an imitation firearm in the presence of a police officer, firefighter, medical emergency technician, or paramedic who is engaged in the performance of his or her duties and the person knows or reasonably should know that such police officer, firefighter, medical emergency technician, or paramedic is engaged in the performance of his or her duties.

(1) The provisions of subsection (b) above shall apply to any replica, imitation, or facsimile firearm, regardless of whether, because of its exaggerated size or distinctive color, it could not reasonably be perceived to be a real or operational firearm.

See. 20-297. Penalties.

Any person found guilty of violating any of the terms of this Article shall:

(a) forfeit possession and/or ownership of the replica, imitation, or facsimile firearm improperly used and

(b) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) not to exceed ninety (90) days in jail, or a combination of both.

SECTION 2: Saving Clause. Nothing in this Ordinance or in the Code hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court or administrative body, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any Act or Ordinance hereby repealed by this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: Severability. Should any section, subsection, clause, or other component of this Article be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise impermissible, it shall be deemed separate and distinct from the remainder of the Article and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Article.

SECTION 4: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication in the official newspaper.

I, Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance duly adopted by the Romulus City Council at its regular meeting held on the 28th day of November, 2005.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

ATTEST: Alan R. Lambert, Mayor

Within forty-five (45) days after the publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance continuing in effect. Said petition shall contain the text of such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six percent (6%) of the registered electors registered at the last preceding election at which a Mayor of the City was elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

INTRODUCED: November 7, 2005
ADOPTED: November 28, 2005
PUBLISHED: December 15, 2005

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
05. Announcements
06. Death Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Private Tutoring
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50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
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59. Auctions

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

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30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicles listed below will be auctioned after JANUARY 14, 2006 unless they are claimed by the owner prior to that time.

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Around the world below,
Like the heaven's stars,
Reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular,
Please wipe away that tear,
For I am spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs,
That people hold so dear,
But the sound does not compare,
With the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you,
The joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description,
To hear the Angels sing.

I know how much you miss me,
I see the pain deep in your heart,
But I am not so far away,
We really are not far apart.

So be happy for me loved ones,
I hold so very dear,
That I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift,
From my heavenly home above.

I sent you each a memory,
Of my everlasting love.
Love is a gift more precious,
Than the purest of all gold.

It was the most important part,
In all the stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other,
As my Father said to do,

For he has countless love and blessings,
For each and every one of you.
Please wipe away that tear my dear,
Just remember,

I am spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year

Worship Directory

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church

DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. MCCLENDON, PASTOR

Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under
29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833



Sunday School 10A.M. - Service 11A.M.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30P.M.

Pastor Earl Duncan

Morningstar Church

28563 Pardo
Garden City, MI 48135
734-367-3029

61. Misc. Items

Bed. NEW Queen Size
Double Sided Pillow Top
Mattress Set.
New in plastic with full
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\$195.00
Can Deliver
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Complete Pecan
Bedroom Set
King Size Bed
w/headboard/box
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Double dresser
w/large mirror
Chest of drawers
Excellent condition
\$300
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NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

MUST

+Be able to pass DOT Physical
+Have a clean driving record
+Have a consistent work history
+Be able to work with people
+Be willing to travel out of town
+Minimum-24 years of age

Will be accepting applications

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8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.**

Job Seminar and Interviews scheduled on site.
December 19th Starts at 6:00 p.m. sharp
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17,000 Sq. Ft. of Antiques & Collectibles

Over 100 Dealers

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New in original unopened box.
Full or Queen Size
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Hard Rock Maple Canopy Twin bed and accessories
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Table, Captain's chair & 5 side chairs
Includes beautiful, lighted display hutch
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87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres Motel, low daily and weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave, HBO. Call 734-721-1220, Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100.
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Electricity & Gas included.
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Ask for Dan

88. Duplexes For Rent

WAYNE
2225 Delton Ct., Wildwood/Palmer area 3 Bedroom, shed, \$675/month
\$325 Security Deposit
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WESTLAND-NORWAYNE
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89. Apartments For Rent

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95. Real Estate

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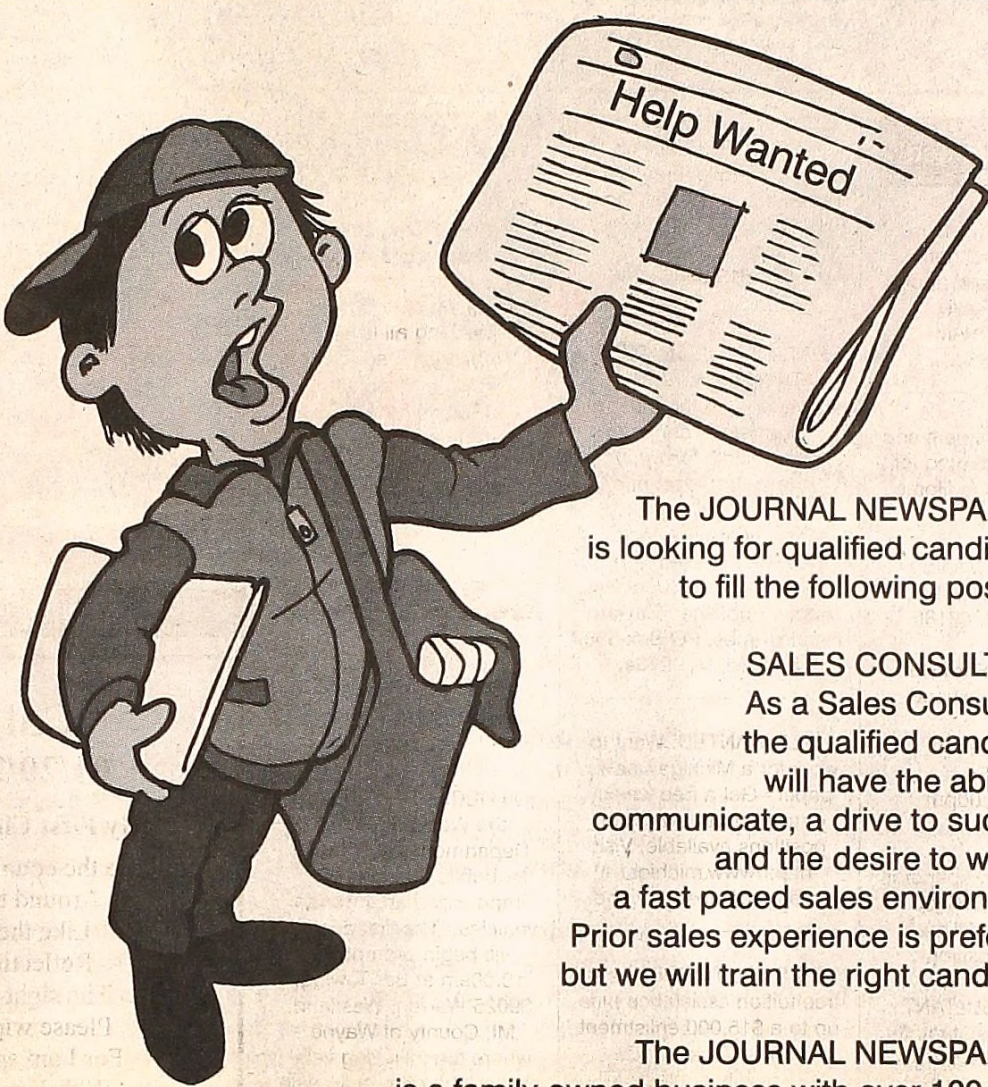
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Garage, fenced 4 pets
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If you are interested in this position, please email your resume and cover letter to ryoung@journalgroup.com, call 734-467-1900 ext. 252 or fax your resume and cover letter to 734-729-1840 (attn: Rob Young).

The JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace.

89. Apartments for Rent

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is offering
One Bedroom Apartments for Persons 62 and older starting at just \$367 per month!*

Free Medicare Seminar open to the public on Tuesday, Dec 6th at 2:00 p.m.

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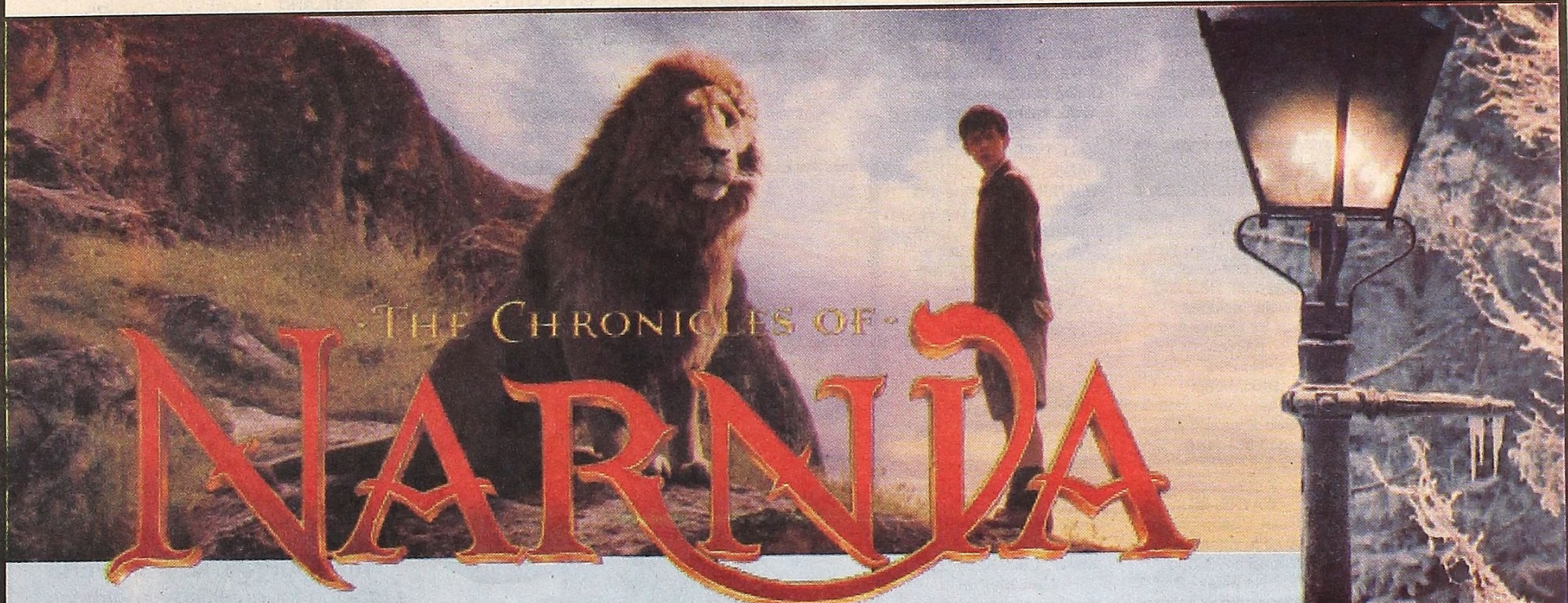


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THE SCENE



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Finally, a movie that brings a child's imagination to life.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe brings to life creatures born from childhood fairytales like cyclops, minotaurs, unicorns, griffins and centaurs. *Narnia* has talking critters, magic, swords and is chock full of epic adventure—everything conceivable of a child's imagination. But best of all there are no whining little hobbits, no Shire and no Orlando Bloom.

Let's face it, the *Lord of the Ring* trilogy was magnificent on several levels but, if there were one fault with the trilogy, the ever complaining and crying Frodo would be it.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is the first episode of a seven-part series written by celebrated author C.S. Lewis. And who better to bring his fairy-tale world to realization than the empire of children movies, Walt Disney Pictures.

The problem is just that. The film feels as though only young children should appreciate it—unlike the books. For everyone else there's more fizzle than fantasy, making *Narnia* a cheap carbon copy of the *Lord of the Ring* trilogy. The acting is flat, the characters are one-dimensional and, unlike the Middle Earth world created by J.R.R. Tolkien's words and *Lord of the Ring* director Peter Jackson's vision, *Narnia* seems small and the special effects fall short of expectations.

The movie begins with the German bombing of London where a war-widowed mother and her four children—Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy—seek shelter from the bombs exploding around them. The next day the children are evacuated from the city and sent to large country estate owned by the eccentric Professor Kirke (Jim Broadbent), and where rules are mandated by a stern housekeeper, Mrs. MacReady (Elizabeth Hawthorne).

Boredom settles in and the children are forced to entertain themselves, leading to a game of hide-and-seek. Lucy, the youngest of the quartet played by an adorable Georgie Henley, finds a hiding spot in a giant wardrobe in an otherwise empty room. As she sinks back among the rows of fur coats, she finds something more than the back of the closet. She discovers a whole other world—Narnia.

None of her siblings believes her story of the winter wonderland that she finds or of Mr. Tamnus the Faun (James McAvoy), the first creature she meets in the other world. However, the all four of them are transported to Narnia via the wardrobe when hiding from Mrs. MacReady.

There they stumble across the talking Beaver and his wife who tell them that Narnia has fallen under the icy spell of the White Witch Jadis (Tilda Swinton) and that the four of them are the two sons of Adam and the two daughters of Eve who are to fulfill the prophecy and restore Narnia to its former greatness. However, Edmund (Skandar Keynes) is lured away by the wicked witch with a promise to rule the kingdom some day. He only finds himself imprisoned in a cell of ice as the sorceress and her minions hunt his brother and sisters.

Peter (William Mosley) is charged with task to not only rescue his younger brother but save all of Narnia. With the help of the rightful ruler of the land, the mighty lion Aslan (voiced by Liam Neeson), an army of mythical beasts and powerful animals is formed as they ready for war against Jadis.

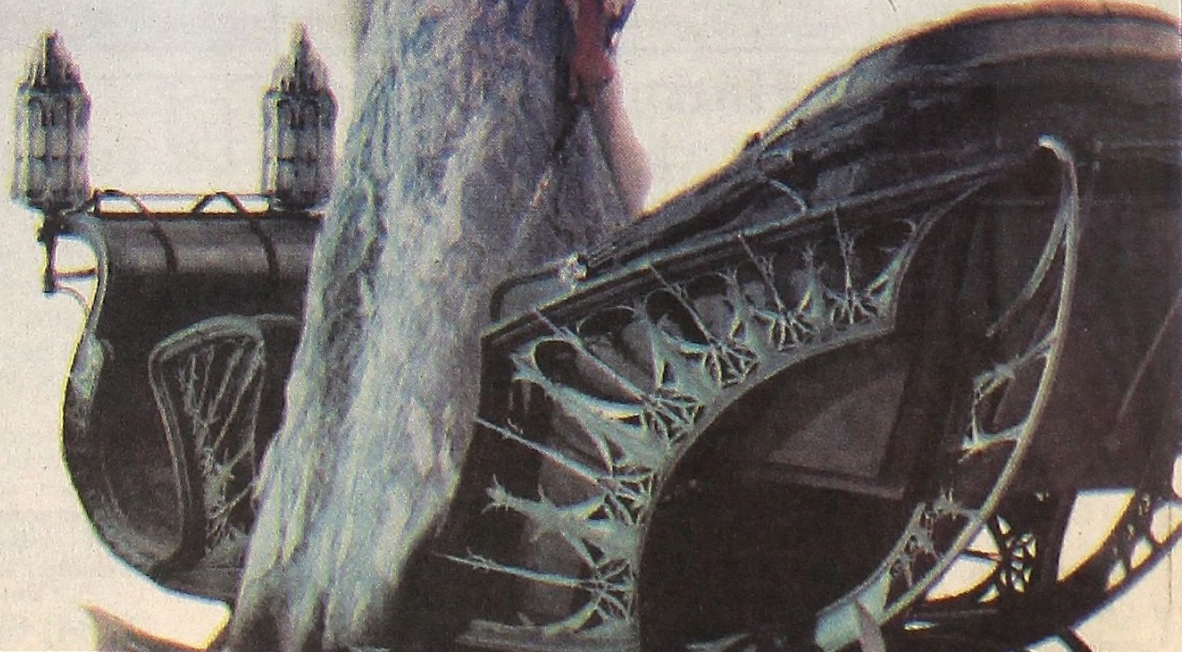
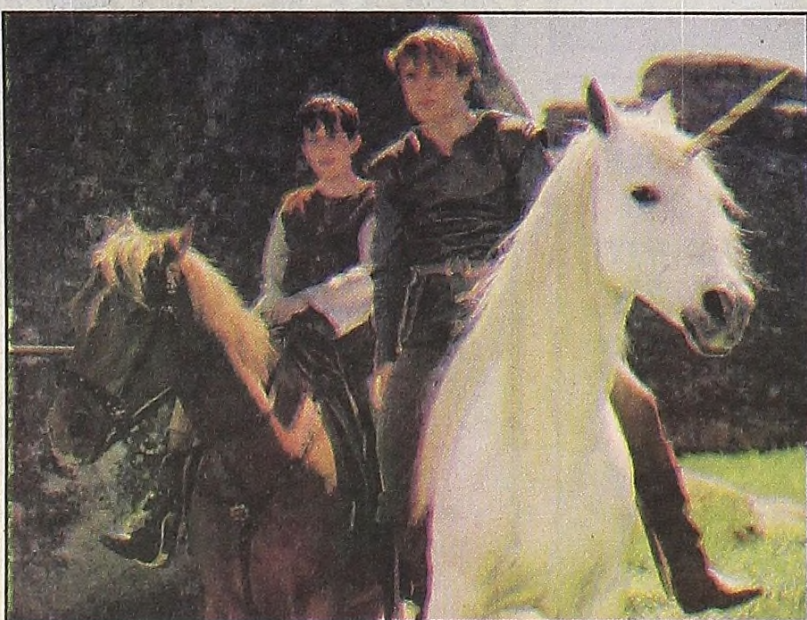
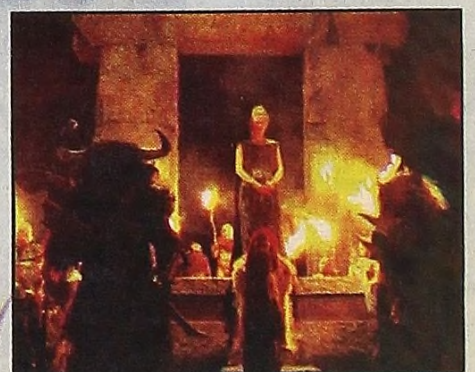
The biblical overtones that run deep in Tolkien's work are made much more simplistic and blatant in Lewis'. Everything from Peter fulfilling a prophecy to the sacrifice and resurrection of a king is laid out for audiences.

Some may see it as just a simple story about the eternal struggle between good and evil with World War II—the real life struggle of good versus evil—as a backdrop.

Whatever the interpretation, remember it is a children's fairy tale and it is Walt Disney.

It's far from being a bad movie, though. But when *Lord of the Rings* is the new benchmark for every fantasy action film yet to be made, everything else mere hobbit size in comparison.

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer



THE SCENE

Holiday events planned throughout area

Throughout the area, communities and groups have planned numerous celebrations and holiday events. Here are many of them by area to help celebrate the season.

Belleville

Area museum to host Festival of Trees

The Belleville Area Museum will host their annual Festival of Trees until Dec. 29. The museum will be filled with trees and wreaths decorated by area businesses and community organizations. For more information and hours, contact the museum at 734-697-1944.

Township to host Brunch with Santa

Ho.Ho.Ho. Here comes Santa and Mrs. Claus Van Buren Township Hall at 11 a.m. Dec. 18 for brunch and more. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 3 and under, \$5 for seniors and children under 3 are free. Brunch will be buffet style and afterward, Mrs. Claus will read her favorite Christmas story for all the boys and girls. Children can also bring their letters to Santa. Picture will also be available for \$3. There are a limited number of seats so register in advance. For more information, contact recreation department at 734-699-8921.

Salvation Army to collect donations throughout holidays

The Salvation Army bell ringers have started their collections and will continue through Dec. 24. They have several locations around western Wayne County to generate funds during the holiday season as part of their Red Kettle campaign. The

money that is raised will stay in the local areas to provide families and individuals with food, clothing, emergency shelter, rent and utilities throughout the year. For more information, to donate or participate, contact Kelly Boelter from the Salvation Army at 734-453-5464 or visit www.ringbell.org.

Canton Township

'It's a Wonderful Life' at Village Theater

The Spotlight Players take the stage at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill to perform this perennial holiday classic. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 dollars for children 12 and under, and \$13 for senior citizens. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. Call the Village Theater at (734) 394-5460 or visit <http://www.spotlightplayers.net> for more information.

Ring in the New Year

Reservations are required for the Canton New Year's Eve Party, which begins at 7 p.m. Jan. 31. This year, the party will take place at the Summit on the Park. After Dec. 1, tickets are \$95 per person. Call (734) 394-5480 to make reservations or learn more about the gala.

Plymouth

Chamber sponsors holiday events

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will once again sponsor the annual Kellogg Park Walk of Christmas Trees and will also invite Santa Claus into the downtown area.

Mr. Kringle is appearing at the band shell at Kellogg Park. Santa will visit with children and listen to their Christmas

requests that night and each weekend until Dec. 23 in the Santa House on Main Street in front of Kellogg Park.

Santa's house is open weekends through Friday, Dec. 23. Hours are: Fridays: 5-8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays: noon-5 p.m.

The Walk of Christmas Trees is also in Kellogg Park.

Wayne

Tree Fest returns

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will put on their annual Holiday Tree Fest at Goudy Park. They'll remain on display until Jan. 3. For more

information, call (734) 721-7400.

Westland

County Lightfest continues

Wayne County Lightfest will be open along Hines Drive from 7-10 each night through Jan. 1, except Dec. 25.

Visitors will see a 4-mile-long display of holiday lights.

Admission is \$5 per car.

Participants should enter off Merriman Road between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Avenue in Westland. For more information, contact the Wayne County Parks office at (734) 261-1990.

Be our guest...

There's still time to check out the most expensive production the Wayne Adult Community Theater Group has put on: a version of Walt Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Brent Sabourin of Westland plays Gosworth in the play and Joe Treadaway of Wayne takes on the role of Lumiere in production, which is based on the hit animated film of 1999. The show runs at the State Wayne Theater again this weekend, with showtimes at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for students or senior citizens and \$10 for children 6-10 years old. Group rates are also available for groups of \$10 or more.

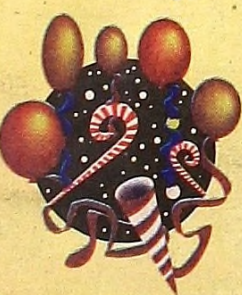


Now Showing At Genitti's

Home of the 7-Course Italian Dinner & Family Theater

SPEND NEW YEAR'S WITH US!

Saturday, December 31 - 7:00 p.m.



\$50.00 per person

(Gratuity not included)

After dinner, to the theater to see our own interactive comedy that takes place during a beauty pageant!

"HOLIDAY STRUT"

Ready For Football? "The Big Game Scramble"

An enormous blizzard has pounded Detroit just days before the Big Game, and now no one can get in or out. Teams are without uniforms, cheerleaders are running amok, announcers aren't even allowed to say the name of the game they're broadcasting! Can the game go on, or will the league fumble the biggest game of the year? Come have some football fun and be a part of the "Big Game Scramble"!



Available Dates:

Sat. Jan. 7 - 6:30 p.m. Fri. Jan. 27 - 7:00 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 14 - 7:30 p.m. Sat. Jan. 28 - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 21 - 6:30 p.m. Sun. Feb. 12 - 2:00 p.m.

Acting Workshops

Enjoy our famous family style lunch or dinner and then, into the theater to work with one of our actors on stage, voice body movement. We have backstage tours and we play theater games!



AVAILABLE DATES: Fri. Jan. 20-5:00 p.m.,
Tues. Jan. 31-5:30 p.m. Sat. Feb. 25-11:30 a.m.
We will open on any date for a group of 20 or more
Any time day or evening for a 2 1/2 hour event

Oldies Fun!

"The Reflections"

(Just Like Romeo and Juliet)
Sat., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. - \$45.00

"Shades of Blue"

(Oh How Happy You Have Made Me)
Sat., Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m. - \$45.00

"Teen Angels"

(A Tribute to Frankie Valli)
Fri., March. 17, 7:00 p.m. - \$45.00



Kid's Show 2006 "Super Zeros"

Join us as we discover all our super powers and capture the evil super-villain!



Sat. Feb. 11 - 11:30 a.m.
Mon. Feb. 13 - 10:30 a.m.
Wed. April 5, 4:00 p.m.

Arrive at your designated time for lunch including: Soup, garlic bread, pasta, salad, baked chicken, brownies and lemonade! After lunch, into the theater to see the show!

Opening February 18th Mocha Madness

Mocha Madness, the town's hippest coffee shop, stirs up some trouble when someone misplaces the shop's deposit. When the bank threatens to close down the shop, its off-color patrons try to brew up a plan to save it. If you think caffeine perks you up, come in and try a cup of Mocha Madness!



AVAILABLE DATES: Sat. Feb. 18-6:30 p.m.;
Fri. Feb. 24-6:30 p.m.; Sat. March 25-7:00 p.m.;
Sat. May 13-6:30 p.m.; Thur. May 18-6:00 p.m.;
Fri. May 19-7:00 p.m.; Thur. June 8-6:00 p.m.

All dinners include a 7 course Family Style Meal - Soup, garlic bread, pasta, antipasto salad, Italian sausage with green peppers and onions, Italian steak with potatoes, baked chicken and canoli for dessert!



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Stock #60553
\$179**

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2006 Five Hundred SEL

Was \$24,930
NOW ONLY \$20,074* A-Plan LOADED

Stock #60505
\$199.00**

Per Month \$1702 Due At Signing

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NOW ONLY \$34,580* HIGH TOP LOADED!

Save \$17,000



2006 Freestyle SEL **FAMILY FUN!**

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